Academic Affairs Committee
Minutes – September 5, 2025
9:00 am McMullin Lecture Hall (D200)

Voting Members: Tim Bentley, Janet Caldwell, Eddie Dry, Nathan Lueck, Tabatha Simpson-Farrow, April Woods, Emilee Huggins
Non-voting members: Victor Beck, Robert Shurley
Non-voting attendees: Provost/VCAA, Academic & Non-academic department heads/directors

1. Call to order: 9:00 am
2. Old Business
    a. Minutes from the previous meeting - approved
    b. RSI Workgroup
        i. Established in October 2024 with planned completion of tasks at the end of the 2025-26 Academic Year
        ii. Committee has been informed that tasks have been completed ahead of schedule and workgroup can be disbanded now
        Academic Affairs discussed "What's next for RSI?" Some members proposed the creation of a group for regular assessment of RSI as we have only completed the first "set" of requirements. When RSI was originally discussed, some members recalled it being explained that there were several ways to increase RSI, but we were only starting with the bare minimum. We would build off those once the first few guidelines were completed. How do we ensure that all online courses continue to follow the RSI requirements? Should we keep the committee until assessment so they can determine how RSI can be assessed moving forward? Jessica mentioned the possibility of self-reporting by faculty while another member asked if it could be done by the online work group.
    c. Revisit discussion about credit from non-accredited institutions from previous meeting. Robert stated that he did not believe that we would accept these credits as our catalog addresses the fact that we would not; however, he will officially take it to the committee to discuss the scenario.
3. New Business items:
    a. Nominations and vote on committee chair for this year (membership list)
    Chair – Eddie Dry
    b. Nominations and vote on committee secretary for this year
    Secretary – April Woods

c. Update from the Advising Workgroup:
    i. The Advising Workgroup has added another member: Brandy Proctor.
    ii. From our meeting with Lacie Pharis, Lacie and Tabatha will collaborate on sending out a spreadsheet to send to deans/faculty to get an updated list of advisors/degrees.
    iii. This semester, we will begin updating our advising manual/toolkit.
    iv. Per a request from the registrar, the AWG sent a request to the two academic deans to review and update degree rotations to be updated on the website and in the new portal.
d. Update from the AI Workgroup:
    i. Seeking recommendations for a new student representative. Let Jessica Clanton know of any students that may be interested.
    ii. We're in the early planning stages of a campuswide forum to brainstorm and discuss how AI is being used across campus. Contact Jessica Clanton with any thoughts/ideas.
e. Update from the Online Workgroup:
    i. The Online Workgroup has added a new member: Cyndi Newman
    ii. First meeting will be later this month
f. Notification and discussion: Astronomy Night (Jessica Clanton) contact Jessica Clanton if you would like to join the planning group for this. Clanton asked if the event planning group would fall under shared governance. Committee felt it would not be under shared governance and directed Jessica to proceed with the creation of the planning group.
g. Open floor for any other notification items

   The Chair of the Operational Affairs Committee, Eddie Dry, discussed an email that he had received regarding the creation of an Assessment Workgroup. He asked whether that would fall under Academic Affairs or Operational Affairs. Dr. Massey stated that she took it to Operational Affairs because she felt we would need to include other areas outside of Academics. This would allow multiple viewpoints to be considered in discussions and decisions. As Assessment always falls under Academics, expanded views will likely be beneficial. Eddie stated that he would add it to the next agenda for Operational Affairs.

4. Adjourn: 9:28 am