Present members and adviser: Christopher Eliot (Chair), Li Huang, Daniel Miller, Stephen Hernandez, Elfreda Blue (Provost’s Office), Evan Koegl (Registrar), Jean Peden-Christodoulou (Student Affairs), Monica Florio (Graduate Recruitment), Mary Ellen LaSala (for Renee McLeod-Sordjan)

The minutes of April 29, 2021 were approved unanimously.

1 Welcome

1. Committee mandate from the Senate bylaws
2. How the committee’s agenda is set
3. Committee membership

2 Online exam security

Our online exam discussion is now being taken up by the Special Committee on Educational Technology (Joseph Bartolotta, Chair). We have passed on some of our discussion to them.

3 Graduate PINs

It is unclear how many graduate programs are using registration PINs, and how many programs value or dislike them. It is unclear whether we continue to need this mechanism, given that they intentionally create a hurdle for registering students, and that hurdle should be removed if it’s not serving us well. The provost’s office will solicit input on this from graduate program directors.

4 Double-counting credits

Some Hofstra undergraduate students take graduate courses. The number of undergraduate students taking graduate courses differs among schools. Though undergraduates make take up to 9 SH of graduate courses, and are sometimes encouraged to take graduate courses, some undergraduate students are not aware that financial aid does not pay for graduate courses. Some receive unexpected bills. Is there a policy solution?

Currently, no Hofstra undergraduate courses can count toward Hofstra graduate program requirements, except if they’re in an accelerated or double-degree program. And that includes Hofstra graduate courses taken by undergraduates. However, non-Hofstra graduate courses taken by undergraduates are routinely counted for graduate programs. This situation may frustrate graduate students who arrive having already taken Hofstra courses required by their programs. Further, it disincentivizes Hofstra undergraduates from applying to Hofstra graduate programs. Is there a policy solution?
One solution to the second would be to treat students coming from Hofstra into Hofstra graduate programs the same as students coming from elsewhere. Another solution is to re-list more programs as “accelerated.” But perhaps only some undergraduate students might want to be in accelerated programs and would need an unaccelerated option?

We still need a proposal for addressing the financial aid issue.

Separately, the committee does not sense there being issues at the graduate level related to too much double-counting being permitted.

5 Online course delivery policies

Faculty who have taken a training course on offering courses online have been allowed to teach remotely, and have been eligible to receive a stipend for developing online courses. After the Covid disruption, many more courses are being offered fully or partly online, and some faculty might seek to use our new streaming technology to stream in-person courses without much additional content.

This committee could recommend standards for courses offered to remote students, and in particular what warrants a Distance Learning designation. Faculty members on the committee supported maintaining Hofstra’s more general academic standards by endorsing more specific standards for DL courses. There are, beyond Hofstra, existing quality-guidelines for online instruction which we might draw on toward recommending new Hofstra standards.

Elfreda, Steve, and Chris will examine some existing standards for appropriateness and plan to bring some ideas to the next meeting.

6 New business

No new business was introduced.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.