

Minutes
Undergraduate Academic Affairs Subcommittee
Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Members in Attendance: L. Dorsey, Chair, E. Gockel-Blessing, S. Sell, E. Crowell, J. Rust, D. Pike., S. Steadman, J. Haugen., G. Barker, L. McLaughlin, S. Tyuse, M. Toups, M. Rozier, K. Waldron

Absent: S. Tyuse, and J. Helton

Call to Order: Dr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Father Rozier to approve the minutes of the February 9th, 2023, meeting minutes with the suggested revisions and clarification(s) and seconded by Laura McLaughlin all approved motion.

Policy Review:

Challenge Exams

The UADD committee met in February and introduced the topic of challenge exams. The UADD committee presented a framework on how challenge exams are developed in the academic units and/or schools.

There have been several academic departments who have been in contact with SLU's ERM team regarding the development of challenge exams and how they are offered in each individual unit.

Dr. Dorsey provided the framework of the discussion brought forward by UADD.

- *Who is the audience for the challenge exams, would it only be the freshman students or is there another cohort of students at other entry points?*
- *We are looking at sixty (60) credits for students and ninety (90) credits for transfer students, would there be a threshold for the number of credits already exceeded to allow those students entering to take challenge exams?*
- *Would this apply to SLU degree-seeking students?*
- *Some of the academic units might already be offering placement exams as a challenge exam.*
- *Are challenge exams accepted at other peer institutions?*
- *Who would be responsible for grading and would the academic unit provide resources?*

Some additional thoughts brought forth from the UAAC committee:

- *Is the challenge exam proposal only for the incoming freshman class of students and would it only apply 1-time?*
- *What is the definition of a challenge exam policy? The language of this policy matters not only from an enrollment perspective but also from a credit perspective.*
- *Would it appear on the course as equivalent to a letter grade? How will this be framed on the policy?*
- *Under what/whose authority would the departments offer challenge exams for credit since there is not a challenge exam policy for the University. There should be an overall faculty governance approval of giving credit to a student.*
- *How do we communicate to a student that they have not passed the challenge exam and it will appear on the student transcript as "unsatisfactory". This is a different level of risk assessment the student needs to be aware of before committing to a challenge exam. Do we have to note it on the transcript if the student doesn't pass the challenge exam?*

- *What types of courses and/or departments show as an option for students to take this exam? Example: a biology course, a student will still need to take the course if they want to be in pre-medicine. Would the student then intentionally gravitate to options for general education?*
- *What are the overall buckets pertaining to the challenge exams?*
- *Is this in line with HLC requirements?*
- *What is the framework around the medical students and how would challenge exam credit move forward when the students enter medical school.*
- *How many of these challenge exams are students allowed to take and challenge out of a specific course. This should be limited to a specific number or 1 course only.*
- *What is the core trying to accomplish by being the foundation of our Jesuit education if a student can opt out of several courses?*
- *Is this offered for undergraduate students only?*
- *The last sentence in the policy change summary states, “students may complete challenge exam prior to successfully completing 45 credits at Saint Louis University, including courses taken through the 1818 Advanced College Credit program. This sentence should have the word, must and not have the word may.*
- *Placement exams can be very labor intensive, and considerable resources already placed on these exams; this is going to require another layer of resources. This may be the reason a unit such as English would resist the idea.*

Scott Sell has been in many conversations with the Enrollment Retention Management Division (ERM) and shared some of their discussions. ERM is focused on launching a pilot for this year for General Chemistry, Intro Spanish, ECON and Math. Students are exempt from placement exams that would typically take place before the student takes their challenge exams. ERM is leaning toward the same timeframe as the AP exams and would be completed on-line. If the student would not pass their challenge exam, the student would then go back and take their placement exam to identify where to place the student.

There have been many conversations around the workload and what efforts are associated with this in terms of the resources involved and the timeline of this process. ERM would like to begin the pilot in May, so therefore, the Chemistry department is pushing for a definitive answer. There are also other concerns around accreditation and assessment (such as pre-med, etc.). Some units have specific accreditation requirements, and it is possible this will not fill the departments accreditation requirements.

Dr. Dorsey will share the concerns and questions that have been addressed and her overall perspective and consistent approach when working on academic policies and processes.

New Business:

Temporary Micro-credential proposal form:

Dr. Dorsey reported that the current policy is being reviewed by CADD and will be voted on March 13, 2023. The caveats that were identified earlier such as working to keep the proposal timeline as quick as possible to meet the market need were addressed with the Provost and will move to CADD approval process.

This proposal form is a short version of the full new program proposal form and temporary, this temporary proposal form will give the units an opportunity until it moves fully to CourseLeaf. This document will be shared with GAAC on Friday, March 10th, 2023.

Dr. Dorsey shared conversations around the micro-credential proposal form and noted the following discussions:

- Will it impact other stakeholders around campus and if it is, what does this look like and are they on-board?
- *There was a query regarding the issuing of the badges. We are not developing a new system for badging; we will continue to utilize Credly.*
- If you are hosting continuing education courses, do we default to Credly issuing for completion or do we utilize the organization granting the CEU? For some in order to continue accreditation they must utilize the organization granting the CEU for their professional licensure. If that is an opportunity to default to that CEU sponsorship, we should, if not and we still would want to have an award, perhaps we would utilize Credly. If not, some might be in jeopardy of with licensures audits. It should default to the organization sponsoring those CEU's.

Announcements

- Next UAAC sub-committee meeting: April 13th, 2023

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am