

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Angela Krueger, Steve Herbert, Todd Bruce, Ed Mish, Rebecca Drenovsky, Chris Sheil, Rick Grenci, Jim Krukones, Michelle Millet, Maryclaire Moroney, Lisa Brown Cornelius, Zeki Saritoprak, Walter Simmons, and Charles Stehlik

September 23, 2020
9:00am, Zoom Meeting

NOTES

Present: A. Krueger, E. Mish, C. Stehlik, Z. Sartoprak, L. Brown Cornelius, M. Moroney, T. Bruce, J. Krukones, R. Grenci, S. Herbert, R. Drenovsky, W. Simmons, C. Sheil

A. Krueger welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. She began with brief announcements. The Office of Legal Affairs is refining revisions to the grade/sanctions appeals policies and procedures. Once completed, this topic will be placed on an upcoming UCEP meeting agenda. Both the graduate policies and the Major/Minor Declaration policy from last semester are currently with CAP. The Graduate Certificate Policy received interim approval, and A. Krueger appreciated the committee members taking time to provide feedback this summer. Finally, the Course Levels/Course Renumbering sub-group was unable to meet over the summer, but will be back up and running as soon as possible.

The meeting minutes from May 13, 2020, were approved.

The Committee first discussed recommended revisions to the Transfer Credit Evaluation rules. Due to regulation changes from the Department of Education, the rules need to be updated. JCU's current rule specifies which institutions we will accept transfer credit from; however, the new regulation states that we must instead identify the sources from which we will not accept credits. S. Herbert stated that he was uncomfortable with language claiming that JCU only accepts transfer credit from regionally accredited institutions. This may exclude foreign universities and other reputable schools that might not have regional accreditation, such as those that are online or religiously affiliated. R. Grenci wondered if we have ever accepted credit from those types of schools. A. Krueger responded that any time a transcript is sent to JCU, it is reviewed by both the Office of the Registrar and, if necessary, any additional appropriate academic departments. R. Drenovsky observed that since it sounds like credits are already being reviewed on a case-by-case basis in practice, this practice could be outlined in the rules. A. Krueger clarified that the only types of credits we do not accept are tech-prep courses, as they are not typically graded coursework, and MOOCs (massive open online courses). These will now need to be stipulated in the rules. She also recommended that the list be revisited on a more regular basis, as things are always changing. JCU's rules are currently more flexible than they previously have been, but there is always room for growth. R. Grenci inquired about including language regarding MOOCs in petitions, so students can be aware of the policy. A. Krueger made note of the suggestion and will look into it. A brief discussion ensued about dual-degrees and pathways, such as the 3+2 and 3+3 programs. S. Herbert would be in favor of relaxing the rule stipulating that students must complete half their total credit hours at JCU in favor of one that instead states that students must complete half their major credits here; however, this is a conversation for the future. A. Krueger will make edits to the Transfer Credit Evaluation rules and will send the changes to CAP for faculty review.

M. Moroney next presented the sub-committee's revisions to the Leave of Absence policy. Language in the policy will help to streamline processes across multiple offices and departments. It also presents a more coordinated effort to reach out during the first week of the semester to students who have not attended classes they are enrolled in. A. Krueger stated that these changes will affect both graduate and undergraduate students. The policy was then approved. Faculty Council, the Office of Student Enrollment and Financial Services, the Office of Academic Success, and the Office of the Registrar will be made aware of the new policy.

The final topic on the agenda was a review of the current definitions of major, minor, program, and concentration from the Undergraduate Bulletin. The Data Governance Task Force posed the following questions to UCEP: should we continue with what is already in the bulletin; what should be done with majors and minors that do not currently meet the minimum credit hour requirement; how should those programs be handled that are not currently in compliance; when does a concentration become a major; and do you need a credit hour requirement for a concentration? T. Bruce also shared that the DGTF would like to see clarification in the bulletin regarding the different types of degrees offered at JCU. R. Drenovsky suggested that at the very least, the language published in the bulletin glossary should match what is already being used internally, such as degree program vs. degree type. A. Krueger observed that these questions deserve a much larger conversation and will pull together a group to begin to examine some of them.

The meeting concluded at 10:00 am.

Notes recorded by S. Payne