

Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy (SACAP)

Update for Academic Senate Executive Committee

Monday, Feb. 10, 2020

Policy Issues – 2019-20 Academic Year

Library Subscriptions for Scholarly Publications

In Summer 2019, Dean Comer contacted Academic Senate concerning the possibility of reducing subscriptions for scholarly publications. This was referred to SACAP by the President. SACAP was asked to comment on the proposed process of the canceling subscriptions and not on the issue of lack of financial support to maintain resources for a research university that is part of PAC-12 and possibly receiving an invitation to join the Association of American Universities (AAU).

In October, SACAP members met with Dean Comer and Assoc. Dean Anderson. They presented a case statement that identified a process for reducing scholarly publications. This process would solicit input from faculty and others in the U of U community. SACAP members and President Facelli listened, asked good questions about the issue and process, and then President Facelli discussed this issue with University Administration. University Administration indicated that a global approach to the scholarship publication issue was needed and Dan Reed will convene a group with broad representation to look into this issue. He will report back to SACAP committee in due time.

- SACAP members will be contacted for this meeting when VPAA Reed has a report.

Thesis Office process and deadlines.

A faculty member had approached SACAP about deadlines and policies enforced by the Thesis Office in the Graduate School. Basically the deadlines are much earlier than other PAC-12 institutions and the policies of review focus on a broader range of issues than at other campuses. The result is that students are delayed in graduation which can impact licensure and employment.

- SACAP invited Dean Kieda and Kelly Harward to a meeting to discuss these issues.
- They shared assessment data that lead to certain changes such as the purchase of Grammarly for all graduate students at the U of U. They hope that changes such as this will result in a smoother and quicker process for thesis/dissertation review. Then a change of deadlines could be discussed.
- After the November meeting, SACAP contacted Kieda and Harward to ask for specific numbers of master's and doctoral documents for fall, spring, and summer as well as how many times these documents are reviewed before acceptance. It was indicated that these numbers were difficult to produce. SACAP has asked for these data for a meeting in March.

Issue from 2018-19

- Faculty asked SACAP to explore an issue of students experiencing challenges for timely graduation if pursuing a Non-Learning Abroad Sponsored Experience as part of the last 30 credits to complete a bachelor's degree due to the degree residency requirement policy of 20 out of last 30 must be U of U courses. Basically students in this situation were not able to participate in a U of U process before starting this experience abroad that would officially or

unofficially evaluate the experience for meeting graduation requirements and waiving the degree residency requirements.

- After reviewing PAC-12 school policies and discussions with the Registrar, Tim Ebner, the current outcomes are:
 - Ebner is working with Undergraduate Studies to reconstitute the Graduation Committee. This committee would review petitions and appeals that focus on graduation issues. Students pursuing the Non-Learning Abroad Sponsored experience could petition through this committee. It will include faculty.
 - SACAP will invite Ebner back in March for an update and to discuss 1 other idea that emerged through early discussions. This focused on an additional residency option of 90 credits at U of U, then residency met.

Members for 2019-20

Julia Franklin, Health
Sarah Shippobotham, Fine Art
David Hill, Law
Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, Education
Korak Chakraborti, ASUU
Gauri Garg, ASUU
Tiratto Tiratto, ASUU
Mohammad Mirfakhrai, Libraries
Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer, Medicine
Robin Craig, Law
Rob Butters, Social Work
Sushma Saraf, Science
Jon Rainier, Science
Martin Berzins, Engineering
Debra Mascaro, Engineering
Julio Facelli, Medicine (Ex Officio)

- Purpose of SACAP: The Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy (SACAP) considers any matter relating to academic policy broadly defined, including matters relating to academic activities to teaching and research, the University libraries (formerly a function of the Senate Advisory Committee on Libraries), and salaries and benefits of faculty and other academic personnel (formerly a function of the Senate Advisory Committee on Salaries and Benefits). It may consider any relevant matter which may be suggested by members of the Committee, members of the faculty, administrative officers, or students. The Senate Executive Committee, or the Senate, may refer to this committee any question or consideration of any proposal regarding academic policy which is not otherwise assigned to another committee of the Senate, or which may benefit from study by this committee as well as another committee. Upon its selection of a subject for study, the Committee shall notify all interested agencies within the University, including standing committees, and invite their cooperation. For matters related to the University Libraries, consultation shall include the Libraries administrators, and for matters related to academic personnel salaries and benefits consultation shall include human resources administrators. At least once each academic year, the Committee shall submit a written report of its studies and recommendations, if any, to the Senate.
- Governing Document: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-002.php>