Grading Policies Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2011

1. Approve minutes of November 7

The minutes were approved with the addition of “via EFF” to the last sentence of item 3 about grade inflation. The sentence will now read, “The only idea put forth about how to combat grade inflation was to increase awareness of the issue via EFF.”

2. Meeting dates for Spring 2012

Meetings will be at the same day and time as Fall 2011. They will be the first Monday of each month at 2:30-4:00pm: 2/6, 3/5, 4/2, and 5/7

3. Attendance: Report on Academic Policies Committee

The A.P. committee approved a resolution to recommend that the Curriculum Handbook be amended to remove the sentence that says, “Class attendance may not be used as an evaluation criterion in credit classes.”

The Dean Boegel and the Curriculum Committee will be working on alternative language.

4. Report on W

Deana and Fred from A.P. are developing language to improve Roland's statement, which several people found confusing.

5. Report on Plus and Minus Grades

Faculty seem to highly supportive of reinstating the use of plus and minus grades. Some reasons to support +/- grades include: (1) it provides a more precise record of the students’ performance, (2) giving plus grades rewards the students who are working harder, and (3) it provides an incentive for students to continue to work hard toward the end of the semester. (For example if a student is getting a B-, it might not be possible for him to raise his grade all the way to an A, but he could maybe still get a B or B+.)

Some counselors are opposed to using +/- grades due to the difficulty in computing GPAs for transfer students and a belief that it would be more subjective. These objections were resolved once the calculation method for the GPA was explained. An example can be found at http://deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/plus_minus_faq.html.

6. New business: Incompletes; other issues

Faculty need to be aware that if a student receives a grade of Incomplete, he or she cannot retake the class until the I grade is resolved.

*Update from A.P meeting 12/12/2011:
Ellen presented that we were in favor of reinstating plus and minus grades (except that we didn’t have a formal resolution because we didn’t have a quorum at the meeting). This was met by a huge opposition from Admissions and Records. It was suggested that the financial cost to implement the change would be significant and not something that we should spend money on with the current budget situation. No numbers were given to back this up, though. They said they wanted to know when we would be discussing this further and they wanted to advertise for this to send representatives opposing the reinstatement.