MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS & GRADING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 20, 2019

Members Present: K.Dyer (Chair), D.DeLeon, A.Stillmaker, S.Polgar

Members Absent: C.Mendoza, K.Fobear

Members Excused:

Meeting was called to order at 3:00p.m.

1. Minutes from 4/12/19 and Agenda for 9/20/19 meeting were approved by the consent calendar.
   1. Agenda for today’s meeting – D.DeLeon asked to add the Undergraduate Writing Requirement to the agenda. Can we get a look at the exam? It doesn’t seem to be effective. What are the grade distributions in W classes….are instructors holding students to standards? It’s not clear.
2. Communications & Announcements:
   1. None
3. Old Business
   1. Grade distributions
      1. Provost Jimenez-Sandoval is interested in high DFW rates. Let’s write a report that jointly addresses high DFW along with potential grade inflation, as both are reflections of the same problem, which is a distortion of academic standards.
      2. We looked through the basic descriptive data (attached) and discussed.
      3. Our (self-assigned) task this year is to write this report and make it available to the campus community as a way of generating attention to the issue of grading standards. We may not be successful pushing back against the grade inflation promoted by the graduation initiative, but we should push back nonetheless.
         1. The report should include information at the university, college, and department levels.
         2. It should also include recommendations about specific issues. E.g., grading in 190s and 290 is quite variable across campus, should it be? Some courses only ever have A or F grades, should those be converted to CR/NC?
         3. Homework for next meeting: each committee member should come with an idea of what section of this report they want to be responsible for writing.
4. Next meeting: Friday, October 11, 3-4pm, Thomas Administration 117.