Academic Policies and Services (APS) Committee

To be concerned with new schools, new programs and new degrees. To consider policies regarding academic honors, leaves, grants, promotions, departmental and divisional chairmanships, programs abroad, the academic calendar, career planning and placement, Vanderbilt University Library, Information Services, the bookstore, and the University Press.

2021-2022 charges:

1. Continue discussing the University Libraries with a focus on the following questions.
   - Is Faculty oversight to the University Librarian needed?
   - Should the status of the position be higher?
   - Would more faculty input be useful and are there barriers to that?

   It is recommended that the committee consider developing a small working group within the Senate along with interested faculty and students outside of the Senate to explore data mining models for collection management. This working group should engage directly with the University level committee on libraries, currently chaired by Professor David Lewis.

   It is also recommended that the committee help the library leadership engage constituencies across the University to collaborate on specific facets of the collection that pose the greatest challenges.

2. Monitor changes in the operation of the Bookstore.

   It is recommended that the committee maintain communication among the Faculty Senate/APS committee, VU Business Services, and bookstore operators on issues related to faculty and community services.

3. Continue to evaluate the potential impact of online-degree programs.
   - Should uniform university policies be developed regarding adding online versions of existing degree programs?
   - Should guidelines for school-based review of online-degree programs be developed?
   - Should there be uniform university policies for faculty compensation?
   - What is the vendor selection process used by the schools/VU?
   - What is the role of faculty within the department/school in online-degree programs.
   - What are the expectations for faculty from the department/school with respect to offering online-degree programs?
   - What should be the role of the Faculty Senate in the approval process of online degree programs?
It is recommended that the committee collect data for online-degree programs offered at VU and peer institutions, and evaluate the potential impact of online-degree programs on the faculty and schools.

4. Continue to gather data to learn about the best practices within our existing interdisciplinary programs, across the University and develop relationships with the Graduate School to provide assistance in the continuous improvement of our existing programs.

1. EC Liaison: Elizabeth Catania, A&S (2023)*
2. Chair 1: Adam Anderson, Engineering (2022)*
3. Chair 2: Queen Henry Okafor, Nursing (NS)
4. Graham Hemingway, Engineering (2022)*
5. Dawn Iacobucci, Owen (2022)*
6. Wonder Drake, Medicine (2022)
7. Kevin Schey, Medicine (2024)
9. Liz Fazio, Peabody (2024)
10. Doug Christianson (Ex Officio)
11. Padma Raghavan (Ex Officio)

Discussion with Chairs held on August 19, 2021