

UNC Asheville

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Memorandum September 7, 2016

To: UNC Asheville Faculty

From: Christopher Bell, APC Chair (2016-2017)

Copy: Faculty Senators and Concerned Administrators

Subject: APC Information & Procedures for Academic Year 2016-2017

A. General Information about APC

1. According to the University of North Carolina at Asheville Faculty Senate Constitution, APC has "responsibility for developing institutional policy and procedures in academic matters."

2. The members of APC for 2016-2017 are:

Christopher Bell, Chair	(Economics)
Agya Baokye-Boaten	(Africana Studies)
Kirk Boyle	(English)
Marietta Cameron	(Computer Science)
Peter Haschke	(Political Science)
Nancy Ruppert	(Education)

ex officio members:

Alicia Shope	(Registrar's Office)
Keith Krumpe	(Academic Affairs)

Consultants:

Lynne Horgan	(Registrar's Office)
Pat McClellan	(Academic Administration)
Lisa Sellers	(Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant)

3. APC is scheduled to meet on the following dates in the Red Oak Room, at **3:15 pm**:

<u>Fall 2016</u>	<u>Spring 2017</u>
August 25	January 26
September 8	February 2
September 15	February 16
September 22	February 23
October 13	March 9
October 20	March 23
October 27	March 30
November 10	April 6
November 17	April 20
December 1	April 27

4. Documents may be submitted to APC at any time, but Senate rules (the requirement for documents to have two readings), posting of class schedules, and APC's extensive agenda that is not limited to catalog duties, impose limits.

If new proposals or changes are to be incorporated into the 2017-2018 academic catalog, documents must be electronically submitted to the Associate Registrar, **Alicia Shope**, for editorial review by **Monday, October 17, 2016**. If APC's schedule permits, proposals submitted after October 17, 2016 may still be considered this academic year, but may not be completed in time for inclusion in the 2017-2018 Catalog.

At the time of proposal submission forward a copy of the proposal to the appropriate Division Dean.

B. Procedures governing *Catalog* or policy changes.

1. **PROPOSAL PREPARATION.** APC is developing an online submission application, Senate Submit, which is currently going through a review and testing process. Until this site is ready for general campus use, APC recommends that departments preparing proposals follow the Hard Copy Proposal Submission Process described on the following pages.

Hard Copy Proposal Submission Process

A proposal must be accompanied by a cover letter as shown in **Section C** below. The proposal itself must follow the format shown in **Section D**. For general guidelines governing *Catalog* copy, see **Section E**.

Departments submitting proposals are responsible for communicating with all other affected departments or programs. APC requires written acknowledgment of this communication from those departments or programs (see Cover Letter Format, Section C below). APC cannot act on

proposals that provide no evidence of communication with affected departments, or on documents submitted without an Impact Statement and Rationale. Numerous or complex changes should be submitted as separate documents rather than as one single document.

2. **MANDATORY EDITORIAL APPROVAL.** **Before** seeking formal acknowledgment from affected departments or programs, documents are to be electronically submitted to the Associate Registrar, Alicia Shope (ashope@unca.edu), via email attachment for editorial review. She will consult with the APC Chair to resolve editorial questions.
3. **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TO APC.** After editorial approval, the Registrar's Office will forward the document to Christopher Bell, APC Chair, and to Lisa Sellers, Senate Secretary (lsellers@unca.edu) ***A hard copy of the cover sheet is required, with signatures of concurrence/non-concurrence and acknowledgement of editorial approval from the Registrar's Office before APC will consider a document.***
4. **APPLICATION.** The Chair of APC determines whether proposed changes are minor or major. A proposed change is minor if:
 - There are no substantive resource implications, for either the department or the university.
 - There is no change in the size of a degree program or minor.

Examples of minor changes include changes in course descriptions, modifications of degree requirements that don't change the required hours of a degree program, non-substantive clarifications of academic policies, requirements for demonstrating specific competencies, and changes in course prerequisites.

The Chair forwards all documents, designated as major or minor, to the other members of APC. Major documents will be considered by APC as a whole. If approved by APC, the documents will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for final action.

Minor documents will not be considered by APC as a whole, and will be reported directly to the Senate **unless** any member of APC asks that the committee consider the document. If APC approves the document, and the change is still considered to be minor, it is reported directly to the Senate. Documents are Faculty Senate documents and are posted on the Faculty Senate web site after the date of Senate approval (for major documents) or APC report to the Senate (for minor documents).

Each department will be informed when its major proposal is placed on APC's agenda, and an informed department representative should attend the APC meeting on that date. APC pays special attention to the proposal's Impact Statement and Rationale, and is interested in how a proposal will affect students, resources and other departments or programs.

5. FACULTY SENATE ACTION. The Senate has a two-reading rule. A proposal approved by APC will be submitted at one meeting (for "first reading") and will be discussed and voted upon at the next scheduled meeting ("second reading"). When documents are scheduled for "Second Reading," a departmental representative may attend that meeting to answer Senators' questions about the proposal.

6. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION ACTION. Upon approval by the Senate, documents must then be approved by the Provost or, in some instances, the Chancellor.

C. Cover Letter Format.

After editorial approval, a hard copy of the cover sheet is required and must include the following information:

- the current date;
- the title of the proposal as listed on the format page;
- the desired date requested changes are to take effect (usually Fall 2017);
- the name, phone number, and e-mail address of the contact person within the department responsible for the proposal.

PART 1) Overview:

Begin with the following: *The attached Catalog changes are hereby submitted for consideration:* Provide a brief description of each proposed change and its appropriate title, listing each separately (a) through (z).

PART 2) Mandatory Editorial Approval:

Registrar's Office: _____ (signature of Associate Registrar)

PART 3) Acknowledgment(s) of Communication Required:

Department A: _____ (signature of chair, program dir.)
(Concur / non-concur _____ / see attachment _____)

Department B: _____
(Concur / non-concur _____ / see attachment _____)

Etc. as necessary

Note: A rationale statement for non-concurrence must be attached by the non-concurring department or program. Objections to a proposal should be clear and specific. If no concurrence is believed to be required, proposal writers should indicate "none" in the blank under this item. Departments should be cognizant of how their proposals affect other departments and sections of the *Catalog*.

D. Proposal Format

All APC submissions must be written in the following format, using bold headings as they appear below. *The guiding principle is clarity.* The clearer the proposal, the easier it will be for the committee to examine it and the greater the likelihood the changes will be correctly inserted into the *Catalog*. All materials will be returned to the writer if the format is not adhered to. A sample proposal is available on the **Faculty Senate website at <https://facultysenate.unca.edu/>**

APC Document _____: Title of Document.

The number will be supplied by the APC Chair when the document is discussed at APC; titles should be as specific as possible and should describe the changes carefully; avoid titles such as "*Catalog* Changes in Math," which are too general to serve as an index for future searches.

Effective Date: _____.

Give semester and year proposed changes would begin. (For *Catalog* changes, these are always the beginning of the next academic school year.)

1. Delete _____(where relevant).

This should include current course number, title and description, or statement heading, page number, and affected paragraph(s) as stated in the current *Catalog*. It is usually better to delete an entire sentence or paragraph than to try to change only clauses.

2. Add _____(where relevant).

This should replace the above material or reference a specific section page and paragraph number in the 2017-2018 *Catalog*. Additions of complete sentences or paragraphs are better than inserting only a couple of words.

Impact Statement:

This should be concise and specific, describing how the proposal will affect major, minor, and university requirements. This statement must also include:

Reference to concurrences (see section C) that have been obtained from departments or programs which are affected by the proposed change(s), describing how the change(s) will affect them. Proposed changes in courses included in the Education Department's Licensure Programs must obtain concurrence from the Education Department as well.

A resource statement explaining how the proposed change is likely to affect the submitting department or program's future staffing needs, course offerings, and student needs and interests (e.g. time to graduation).

If the proposed change results in changes in the number of hours or number of courses required to graduate, in addition to the narrative include a table describing a two-year staffing plan that demonstrates the department has sufficient resources to teach every course in the proposed curriculum in the offering pattern described in the catalog with a sufficient number of sections and seats for students to graduate in a timely manner. This table should take into account faculty with guaranteed course releases (e.g. department and program chairs, endowed chairs, administrative assignments, etc.) and commitments to University programs (e.g., the Humanities and MLA programs, the freshman colloquium, etc.). Here are examples of acceptable tables submitted to APC in the past <http://www3.unca.edu/facultysenate/2016-17/sampleproposals.html>.

Rationale:

This statement should briefly justify the change(s), explaining the reasoning behind the proposal. If a rationale is intended to become a policy in its own right, it should be included in a separate submission.

E. General Administration Guidelines and Suggestions for *Catalog Copy*

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW

State degree and program name offered, and number of hours required for completion. *Make prerequisites explicit. Avoid hidden prerequisites.* Truth in packaging is an essential component of University integrity.

DESCRIBE DEGREE PROGRAM

A short description assists students in understanding the scope and emphasis of the program. It may include the preparation necessary to complete all requirements.

LIST COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course requirements (course numbers and titles) should follow each program heading.

LIST CONCENTRATION OPTIONS

Following the core course requirements, list the “emphasis” or “concentration” areas (not to be confused with “tracks,” “programs,” or “other degrees offered.” The concentration or emphasis area should clearly indicate the number of hours required as well as course requirements.

Format Questions

Please contact Christopher Bell at bell@unca.edu to discuss formatting and answer questions about submitting APC documents.