

Academic Advocacy Committee 2016-2017

Meeting #7 Agenda

Tuesday October 4th, 2016 | 6:00 PM | LM 155

1. Mid Course Feedback Update:

- SpeakUp Promotion Underway
- Training First Year Class reps on Thursday
- Presentation at Faculty Council Executive Committee went very well!
- On track for first feedback check-in on Friday
- **Billy:** Student-Staff meeting feedback:
 - i. Profs Expressed interest in seeing the feedback real time
 - ii. **Deb:** counterpoint, it's also a student forum designed for freedom of expression
- **Andrew:** As long as it's anonymous, I don't think having a prof attached would be intimidating.
- **Farheen:** Let professors add another flashcard for the course
- **Deb:** Can accommodate profs adding additional courses
 - i. Kevin can do this
- **Billy:** Generally think in the majority of cases people would prefer that gripes would go directly to the source.
 - i. Potential: checkbox to indicate you don't want this to go to the prof
- **Deb:** In past, profs haven't had time to go through the feedback
- **Billy:** Good to have the academic director in there regardless, but why curtail an additional opportunity for profs to get involved.
- **Sam:** could consider opt-in profs with logins
- **Deb:** Take it on an opt-in basis: whoever's interested, we can manually do the work (Winter Semester).
- **Sam:** Sam & Deb to talk to Dev team about moving forward.
- **Billy:** why is there prohibition on sharing information?
- **Andrew:** no expectation that it's anonymous - we haven't advertised that
- **Billy:** *suggestion, add a checkbox about having feedback not be shared, otherwise feedback can be circulated.*
- **Deb:** downloading of spreadsheets should be monitored as well - only class reps, not widespread distribution.
- **Conclusion:** in-course dialogue about course feedback is definitely okay, concerns about individual feedback given anonymously being identified.
- We shouldn't share excel files (raw) beyond class reps, if professors opt in, they are okay to see raw data, casual dialogue is fine.
- **Deb:** we can add a check box "Academic Director/Prof/Quoting is Okay" "Only Academic Rep sees this"

2. **Deb:** “Thesis Tinder” Update

- XperimentR
- Identify potential thesis supervisors and potential students

3. **[FINAL] First Year Rep/Course Pairings: CORE 8 (2 minutes)**

- **New plan:** Sam to send SpeakUp overview email to FYR’s tonight, and AD’s to set up one on ones/invite first year reps to group meeting for first feedback review.
- **Sam to send first year reps a Doodle poll and give them a formal Engsoc Orientation at their next available date.**
- **Invite them as guests to the next AAC meeting.**
- CIV100 – 8 LECTURE SECTIONS
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: SNEHA
 - CIV REP: CHRISTIAN PAVLIDIS (LEC 0101-0104)
 - TRACKONE REP: JANE ILLARIONOVA (LEC 0105 - 0108)
- CHE112 – 1 LECTURE SECTION
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: OMAR
 - CHEM REP: MOHAMMAD RAHIM REZA
- MAT188 – 8 LECTURE SECTIONS
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: BEN
 - INDY REPS: LINDA REN (LEC 0101-0104), HANIN AFZAL (LEC 0105 - 0108)
- MAT186 – 8 LECTURE SECTIONS –
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: SOFIA
 - EE REP: JOSH HARTMANN (LEC 0101-0104)
 - CE REP: NOAH POPLOVE (LEC 0105 - 0108)
- APS111 – 1 LECTURE SECTION –
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: RACHEL MANDEL
 - MECH REP: HANNAH ENG
- MSE101 – 2 LECTURE SECTIONS –
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: JENN
 - MSE REP: CALVIN YU HUYNH
- APS110 – 2 LECTURE SECTIONS –
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: SOFIA
 - TRACKONE REP/ECE REPS: JANE ILLARIONOVA (T1), JOSH HARTMANN (EE), NOAH POPLOVE (CE)
- APS100 – 4 LECTURE SECTIONS –
 - ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: MARINA RENY
 - MIN REP: SAM MCCULLOCH

4. **Faculty’s Appeal Process**

- Personal story was shared from a general engineering society member regarding their experience with an academic appeal. Member wished the contents to remain confidential outside the AAC membership.
 - i. Consider: FAQ document at the student level
 1. Still - psychological effects in Faculty approach were incredibly detrimental
 2. More work needs to be put in how they “cave” and potentially bending unnecessary policies
 - ii. Sofia: getting policies to speak for themselves
 - iii. **Billy:** it took a year to deal with a problem that happened last September.
 - iv. **Andrew:** lawyers involved due to the nature of it being a legal tribunal, doubt we will be able to take out lawyers entirely.
 1. At some point - there was a proposal to let students take one core course + elective or one tech + free elective during that 8 month suspension.
 2. We may want to be aligned with that with our proposal.
- **Follow Up from last meeting: what would we like to achieve?**

- i. **Billy:** Easiest: amend that 8 month withdraw policy
 1. Get this in for second or third Faculty Governance cycle
 2. Involve counsellor - set in stone policy does not work, needs to be considered more on case by case.
 3. E.g. **two by default, and may get more with support from academic counsellor and accessibility counsellors.**
 - a. POLICY that “acknowledges” students that have put in this much detail into their case. (wording unclear)
 - b. E.g. if you are endorsed by both, you are allowed to proceed with 2 (or more) courses.
- ii. **Billy:** Appeals Process - majority of the problem that needs reform, is not so nearly clear cut
 1. Resources from EngSoc for students for support
 - a. E.g. Faculty Appeals FAQ and support
 2. Accountability mechanisms from EngSoc
 3. Getting the Faculty to realize that this is a problem and see if they have any suggestions to deal with it.

Thoughts about breaking it up: Will be the last item on next month’s agenda

- At this committee: come up with a concrete list of things to accomplish.
 - University Level

- AAB Level
- Examinations Committee

Notes: Advocating for more qualified people to sit on the AAB - have people who are prepared to handle that type of student. (e.g. human rights lawyer, or accessibility counsellor). Counter: it is an “academic” appeals board, and should have academic representation given that it’s academic courses and engineering problems. Registrar is often a “partial” body, and may not be the best person to act as an unbiased representative.

Conflict of interest of registrar in some cases, there is supposed to be a “neutral” faculty source. In some cases they are the adversary the student is fighting (e.g. hiring lawyers for GC). Often registrar plays a major role in questioning the student in discussing the decision. Aren’t voting members but they play a big role and this is worth noting.

Consider for Longer Term: Making student reps on the academic appeals board for two years. Also mechanisms to enforce confidentiality.

5. [TABLED TO NEXT MEETING] PEY Advocacy Updates from previous action items:

- YNCN to attend
- Verbal updates from:
 - i. Deb - Report skeleton, defining the “ideal PEY” with Farheen
 - ii. Jenn - Survey
 - iii. Billy - Structural changes beyond ECC
 - iv. Reem & Betty - Points about best practices other groups
 - v. Andrew - YNCN input on forum of career centres
 - vi. Zhenglin & Namya - Cannon article
 - vii. Eric - FIPPA & Phone tag
 - viii. Sofia - research about Outreach, what works in general, and midterm/final exam petitions
- Assign next steps
- YNCN to come to next meeting (hopefully) and contribute

6. Standing Committee Updates?

7. Other Business

10. Next Meeting: in ~ 2 weeks, When2Meet to come

Attendance

Board Members		
VP Academic	Samantha Stuart	
Board Member	Oghosa Igbinakenzua	
Board Member	Billy Graydon	
Board Member	Apurv Bharadwaj	
Discipline Representative		
Chemical	Omar Hamdy	
Civil	Sneha Adhikari	
Computer	Sofia Tjanic	
Electrical		
Engineering Science	Deborah (Inioluwa) Raji	
Industrial	Benjamin Leung	
Materials Science	Jennifer Dixon	
Mechanical	Rachel Mandel	
Mineral	Marina Remy	
Faculty Standing Committee Representative		
Community Affairs and Gender Issues	Marina Remy	
Community Affairs and Gender Issues	Namya Syal	
Community Affairs and Gender Issues	Zhenglin Liu	
Community Affairs and Gender Issues	Cuilian Fang	
Examinations	Vele Tosevski	
Examinations	Peter Singh	
Scholarships and Awards	Betty Liu	
Scholarships and Awards	Simo Pajovic	
Teaching Methods and Resources	Deborah (Inioluwa) Raji	
Teaching Methods and Resources	Omar Hamdy	
Teaching Methods and Resources	Reem Tawfik	
Teaching Methods and Resources	Trevor Gauthier	
Undergraduate Curriculum	Samantha Stuart	
Undergraduate Curriculum	Benjamin Leung	
Undergraduate Curriculum	Nataliya Pekar	
Undergraduate Curriculum	Farheen Ahmed	
Academic Appeals Board	Eric Bryce	
Academic Appeals Board	Jennifer Dixon	
Academic Appeals Board	Gokul Kaushik	
Academic Appeals Board	Andrew Kidd	
Guests		

P – Present

A – Absent

R – Absent with Regrets