

Faculty Senate  
Academic Policies Committee  
Minutes  
26 January 2026  
1pm—2pm

In Attendance: Amy Ellison, UC Senator; Matt Varga, Graduate Education (Ex Officio); Shelly Elman, CHASS Senator (APC Chair); Lewis Baumstark, CMCS Rep; Samantha Duke White, RCOB Rep; Michelle Venn, School of Nursing Rep; Marie Brown, Registrar (Ex Officio), Jean Cook, Library Rep; Corey Maggiano, CHASS Senator; Ericka Wentz, UC Senator; Kyunghye Moon, CMCS Senator, David Newton, Provost's Office (Ex Officio), Deon Kay, SCFM Rep, Laurie Kimbrel, COE Rep. Julie Talbot, CMCS Rep

Invited Guests: Dylan McLean, Faculty Senate Chair; Cassidy Nelson, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment & Admissions; Monica Smith, Associate Vice President of Student Success.

The meeting began at 1:01PM

- I. Minutes of the October 31, 2025 meeting were approved.
- II. Raising UWG minimum GPA requirements for admission
  - a. Dylan McLean gave background to his discussion with President Johnson about possibly raising the GPA requirements to improve graduation rates; DM talked about the change in students. President is concerned about timeline issues. Dylan encouraged the APC to consider and give recommendation quickly. Encourages us to come up with a statement to share for Feb. 6 Senate meeting.
    - i. Much discussion ensued related to the rigor versus failure rates.
    - ii. Since COVID, rigor in first year courses as declined, which can explain why failure rates have not.
    - iii. Examples such as Nursing where students who have not had algebra in high school do worse in medicine math than those students who did take algebra in high school.
    - iv. APC members would like to see the data on what an increase in the GPA admissions requirement would do to enrollment.
      1. Guest Cassidy Nelson stated that an average of 34 students would miss the admissions cut off if the GPA requirement were to be raised to 2.5.
        - a. Those 34 students could appeal for admission.
        - b. UWG can admit up to 15% of students through this appeal process each year.
        - c. UWG has not admitted as much as 15% through the admissions appeal process in the last two years.

- b. **Information Item:** APC discussed the issue at length and is committed to have a resolution by the March 13, 2026 Senate Meeting.
  - i. APC members will go back to their faculty to discuss the issue and will bring information to their February 23, 2026 meeting.
  - ii. APC members would like more data that Dr. Monica Smith will provide:
    - 1. IPEDS data on GPA admission from 2016 cohorts to the present;
      - a. Cohorts do not include transfer students or international transfer students.
  - iii. Some concerns from the committee:
    - 1. Current high school students' lack of study skills as a result of COVID and the resulting lowering of rigor in first year courses;
    - 2. Raising the GPA for admissions doesn't help graduation rates like student support mechanisms (like student support mechanisms (academic support, advising/mentoring quality, early alert interventions, and counseling/mental health) do;
    - 3. Programs are being pressured to raise student credit hour generation and the raising of the GPA admissions requirement seems at cross purposes with raising SCH.

III. Academic Integrity Committee update: this was tabled until the February 23, 2026 meeting.

IV. Developing Curricular and Content Review Process/Policy

- a. The APC recommends that curricular and content review policy be created and conducted by individual programs as required by discipline specific accreditation or industry standards.

V. Academic Withdrawal Policy

- a. The APC recommends that the withdrawal policy be extended to 10 weeks total
  - i. The APC further recommends that students have 10 weeks to withdraw from a course. The 11<sup>th</sup> week would be a review period for the faculty member and student to discuss if withdrawal is necessary.
  - ii. If a student withdraws earlier than the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, they have five to seven days to communicate with the faculty member about their grades.
  - iii. Once a student fills out and submits the withdrawal request form, an email notification will be sent to the faculty member and the student's advisor letting them know that they and the student have five to seven days to communicate about how the student is doing in the course and if withdrawal from the course is needed.
- b. Hardship Withdrawal deadline

- i. The APC recommends that the institution increase the amount of time to submit for a Hardship withdrawal from six months to one academic year.
  - c. Discussion ensued about creating a “professional” hardship withdrawal, for graduate students who experience an increase in their day job duties, whether by promotion or for another reason, and determine that they cannot mentally or physically do that job and remain in graduate courses. It was determined that the committee would bring this up in the next APC meeting on February 23.
- VI. Graduate Faculty Status (handed over from GPC to APC)—tabled until the February 23 meeting.
- VII. APC Chair for 2026-2027 AY—tabled until the February 23 meeting.
- VIII. Other business
  - a. Corey Maggiano will represent the APC at the February 6 Senate meeting in Shelly Elman’s absence.
  - b. Adding UR designation to syllabi for all HIP courses (for Feb. 23 meeting)
- IX. The meeting adjourned at 2:45PM

Respectfully submitted by Shelly Elman