

# Academic Affairs Committee

## Report for 2017-2018

### Committee Members

18 Charley Harrington (IDS)	19 Ambre Ellison (SON)	20 Chris Bender (NSE)*
18 Carmen Harris (HPPA)	19 Ayse Erdogan (JCBE)	20 Frank Li (MCS)
18 Sarah Hunt-Barron (SOE)	19 Jim Lamee (LIB)	20 Rich Murphy (LLC)
18 Scott Meek (PSY) <sup>†</sup>	19 Lizabeth Zack (SCW)	20 Grover Walters (INFO)
18 Nolan Stolz (FACS)		

### Ex-Officio:

Brendan Kelly, Chancellor

Clif Flynn, Provost, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Mary-David Fox, Registrar

\* Chair

<sup>†</sup> Recording Secretary

The Academic Affairs Committee met on seven occasions

1. September 15, 2017
2. October 13, 2017
3. December 1, 2017
4. January 12, 2018
5. February 2, 2018
6. March 2, 2018
7. April 20, 2018

Among the first orders of business was the restoration of the Committee's former review capabilities for all coursework and programmatic changes. With the update to the 2016 Faculty Manual, AAC's mission was changed to review only programmatic changes; coursework that did not influence a program's curriculum (e.g., course descriptions, changes to co- or pre-requisites, some course additions/deletions, etc.), had been going straight to Senate for several years, causing some confusion in the committee, but also removed a layer of oversight for grammar, spelling, syntax, etc. that Senate was now taxed with correcting. With the passing of a Senate resolution, all program and course changes required AAC review.

Additionally, a reformatting of all AAC forms moving signatures to the second page as well as requirements that all proposals to the Committee include editable MSWord documents, allowed AAC to make corrections and changes during the meetings. As a result, two meetings lasted 3 hours, while several others were 2+ hours.

The new programs reviewed by the committee included:

- a new Masters of Teaching and Learning which replaced two Masters degrees (Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education, both of which were terminated) (this added 4 new courses to the catalog)
- a new Masters in Business Analytics (adding 15 new courses)
- a new concentration in the Business school in Supply Chain Management (adding 5 new courses)
- a degree modification that allows USC Upstate to offer a Bachelor of Arts in addition to the Bachelor of Science in chemistry

New courses not listed above were added to the following programs:

Biology (2), ETM (2), Global Studies (4), IDS (1), Spanish (3), Speech (1), and Political Science (7)

Additional course changes (i.e., pre- or co-requisite, title changes, description changes, etc.) were discussed for:

Biology (2), Business (13), Chemistry (3), Communications (2), Education (1), English (3), Exercise Science (1), Music (9), Nursing (1), Spanish (3), Speech (1)

Minors across the academic landscape also saw changes. Those affected include:

Chemistry, Communication Studies, Political Science, and the creation of a new minor in Organizational Communication

The committee also reviewed proposals for

- Determining which courses would be used to calculate the GPA used for “Graduation with Honors”, e.g., *summa cum laude* (it is now only courses in the USC System)
- Allowing IDS majors to substitute General Education courses with a completed Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited college. A similar proposal recommending a substitution of Gen Ed requirements for all other majors was not recommended from the Committee and was also voted down in Senate, as well.
- Reorganizing course descriptions for undergraduate courses to be alphabetical by four-letter course prefix

Work that is continuing into next year is a review of the Committee’s oversight of faculty grade changes.

Carmen Harris was elected Chair and Jim Lamee will be recording secretary for 2018-2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher M. Bender

Academic Affairs Committee Chair, 2017-2018

Submitted: May 1, 2018