

School of Energy Set Rep Meeting
March 30th, 2022
Minutes

Chair: Amanzhan Duisek – Chair, School of Energy

Staff: Gurleen Mann – Wellness Advocate
Crystal Man – Administrative Coordinator

1.1 Meeting Called to Order

The Chair, Aman calls the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

- Aman introduces himself and his role.

1.3 New Business

1.3.1 Student Development

- Wafaa Barakat, Student Development Manager, presents on the opportunities available to students.

Discussion:

- When does Peak Leadership occur?
 - After class hours
- Does Peak Leadership run twice a year?
 - Yes!
- Is the Student Initiative Fund for students only? What about alumni?
 - It is only open to current students.
- How would the volunteering program work for students in the technology teachers' program?
 - Still in development stage, looking for student input on how to build the program
 - This could be a great opportunity to help with the volunteering requirement for the program.

1.4 Student Rights and Academic Integrity

- Student Academic Integrity policy have different links with different levels of information in each; instructors have been interpreting these in ways that violate student rights.
- Situations have occurred where students were notified of their grades only on the Learning Hub or notice of violations of academic integrity.

- The Associate Dean noted that this was an issue but said that the instructor was technically right, as they opened a version of the policy where the full details were not present.
- There were situations where students were not given the opportunity to prepare for meetings to discuss issues of academic integrity.
- Instructors also have the discretion to determine the level of punishment.

Discussion:

- The Advocacy office has communicated with the acting Associate Dean and Program Head, and were informed that the department would be informed, but not provided with any information on how this would be done. Gurleen has made it clear in her communication that the official policy itself must be followed, and not the versions that may be available online. The Associate Dean said that there was evidence that the students did not follow the academic integrity policy and could request a second meeting regarding the issue, but that was it. Students could file a complaint about the process, but this will have no effect on the outcome.
- Is it entirely up to the instructor to determine the punishment?
 - It depends on the severity of the violation(s).
- Have there been any updates?
 - BCIT acknowledged that there is a problem and will look into rectifying it moving forward.
- How does the appeals process work?
 - Students have a window of a few business days to appeal the decision. The Decision Review Board appeals process can take months.
 - Very few students achieve their desired outcome.
- Is there an issue with the policy?
 - The policy is fine, but the AD says that there are multiple versions/resources.
 - Gurleen's understanding is that these resources are from previous versions of the policy.
- How would students go about amending the policy to increase the standards?
 - Would not be the BCIT academic integrity policy, but working with the Associate Dean, program, and or the department.
 - Students will never find out the outcome of how instructors will be disciplined or any consequences.
 - Can lobby to have the different versions taken down, and if a similar issue comes up, there is more data.
 - Changing the policy can take a very long time. Advocacy can work with student life but cannot guarantee that changes will be made.

- Is there no consequence for an instructor following an incorrect/out of date policy?
 - That has to do with their employment and is out of our scope.
- What can Set Reps do to ensure this doesn't happen again?
 - Go directly to the policy, not other online resources that may be available.
- What happens if a student is pulled into a meeting online, which violates their rights?
 - Have the student inform the instructor that the conversation does not follow policy and send a follow up email summarizing this information.
 - Inform Advocacy and make an appointment immediately.
- It doesn't matter how the instructor is reprimanded, but that the policy is followed.

1.5 Set Rep Updates

- Accessibility Services is still taking a long time to respond; instructors sometimes just have students complete exams in their office.
 - Sometimes Accommodations just does not confirm but the exam is prepared for the students.
 - Students can ask Accessibility Services by email to please confirm.
- It would be nice to have separators between the urinals in the washrooms in SW3 and SW1!
 - Can put in a Facilities request form online.
- Students were informed to contact a certain department if they contracted COVID-19 and are not able to attend mandatory labs. Is this still the case?
 - This is likely not available anymore.
 - First step would be to contact the instructor immediately and inform them that you are experiencing COVID symptoms and plan to get tested. Most of the time they would be helpful.
 - Recommend that students test right away. Do not recommend that students wait to see if their symptoms get worse, since test kits are free.

1.5 Reminders

- Planning a small event for Energy students on the field in the last week of April.

1.6 Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 20:09.