2020-21 Annual report to the Faculty Senate from the Academic Quality Committee

Members:
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Charge:
1. Research, identify, and recommend practices that promote and sustain academic quality for faculty and students at Portland State University.
2. Conduct and review biennial surveys of faculty and students.
3. Report on issues, concerns, and potential for actionable ideas.
4. Conduct research on implementation of best practices and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate.
5. Maintain a "dashboard" that evaluates progress on implementation of academic quality initiatives.
6. Report to the Faculty Senate at least once each year.

Action items:
1. Due to the demands of Covid-19 and remote instruction, the AQC began meeting in Winter term.

2. There were several emergent issues:

   a. Submitted a memo to the Faculty Senate regarding proposed changes to the BA/BS degree requirements.

   b. Provided feedback to the Registrar's Office on the Attend Anywhere course designation and on questions regarding building waitlist functions in Canvas.

   c. Submitted a memo to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee regarding the Attend Anywhere course delivery model.

   d. Explored the ramifications of sunsetting the Covid-19 response P/NP policy. Met with the Student Success and Persistence groups, Michele Gamburd, Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate and Cindy Baccar, Registrar. Recommends that the policy sunsets as planned and that the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) review the policy in 2021-22. The EPC Chair has agreed.

3.   Met with members of the Students Success Committee. It was suggested that AQC coordinate the efforts of OAA, IAC, and OAI regarding student success initiatives. Questions of

how do we define student success? Measure student success on campus? Encourage inclusive teaching campuswide? And remove bias from student assessment? No action was taken this academic year.

4.	Discussed the concerns of AQC members regarding a lack of data on the remote student experience. As far as the committee could identify, UNST (FRINQ, SINQ, and Capstone courses) is the only unit gathering end-of-year data that addresses the unique nature of the 2020-21 academic year.

5.	The AQC Chair attended Digital Course Evaluation Committee meetings as a liaison. The group met twice and is on hiatus awaiting feedback from the Provost on the policies and guidelines developed for faculty and departments.

6.	The AQC Chair attended Institutional Assessment Council (IAC) meetings as a liaison and contributed to the IAC's work planning PSU's first annual assessment celebration in the fall of 2021.

7.	Regular discussions regarding the role of AQC in informing the APRCA Committee and processes.

8.	OIRP provided an analysis of the HIPs survey and senior exit survey from spring 2020. Due to the emergent issues listed above, the Committee will revisit the survey in fall 2021.

9.	Ongoing Items for the Committee to consider in academic year 2021-22:

a.	Review the work of the Ad Hoc Committees formed as a response to AQC recommendations in 2016 and follow up on recommendations.

b.	Examine whether the AQC charge still fits the role and resources of the committee. Specifically, whether or not the AQC should continue collecting data for "dashboards" to evaluate "progress on implementation of academic quality initiatives" (Committee Charge).

c.	Identify an AQC liaison for the Student Success Evidence Committee.
d.	Develop a process for proposing HIPs designation for the course schedule.
e.	Revisit the analysis of the HIPs survey and senior exit survey from spring 2020.
f.	Explore what data gathering options and partnerships, if appropriate, will be useful to the campus community.
g.	Consider options for expanding a Committee webpage and/or dashboard.