

APC report to Faculty Congress, October 2017

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) met on Monday, October 2, 2017.

1) Online CATS Update

The response rate for Spring 2017 was 76%, higher for full-length courses and lower for short courses. Given the software's current design, it is not feasible to give instructors discretion over the timing of online CATS (as some faculty have requested). Delays in returning CATS to instructors were largely due to the vendor; OPIR/UNIT hopes to expedite this process.

Work is underway on possible diversity and inclusion CATS questions. OPIR plans to pilot questions this semester with a group of instructors who volunteer for this. Some APC members are concerned about how students will answer such questions in courses where diversity and inclusion issues are not directly germane to the course material; we hope results of the pilot will address this concern and that this will be a true pilot (where course correction is possible).

2) APC Subcommittees

APC has started two new subcommittees, one on diversity and inclusion issues as they relate to academic policy at the university level and one explore the academic experience for high achieving students. Two subcommittees from last year (on Academic Integrity Violations Procedures and Online CATS) continue their work. Two other subcommittees (on the Honors Program and reviewing a possible university core curriculum) have completed their work and are no longer meeting.

Submitted by Christopher Kilby