Longwood University Faculty Senate

**PROPOSAL/POLICY COVER SHEET**

This cover sheet is intended to provide information to members of the Faculty Senate about a new proposal/policy or about revisions to an existing proposal/policy. If you are proposing a new policy, then attach the text of the policy to this form. If you are proposing a change to an existing policy, then attach the text of the current policy with any deleted language marked by a strikethrough and with new language marked by an underline. If you are deleting a policy, then attach the text of the policy to be deleted.

**COMMITTEE(S)** that authored or sponsored this proposal: Academic Technology Advisory Committee

**TOPIC**: Redefining Hybrid/Blended Classes

**BACKGROUND** (Provide a brief statement describing the origins of this proposal, the nature of the problem it addresses, and the work completed to devise the proposal):

This committee began discussing syllabi for online and hybrid/blended classes two years ago; this lead to a discussion of the need for course registration descriptions and syllabi to realistically reflect how classes are conducted—both for students and for accrediting agencies. Because the university would have lost revenue by enlarging the number of courses considered hybrid/blended, no change was proposed. Since the BOV changed the way fees are structured in 2014, categorization of courses has no effect on fees charged; therefore, we propose redefining the way the terms *hybrid* and *blended* are used in the *FPPM* to more accurately describe the actual contact hours of instruction in courses. Students—both those who embrace online coursework and those who avoid it—have expressed concern about not having a clear sense of the quantity and timing of face-to-face and online meetings when they are selecting and registering for classes. This change would address that issue and also prevent compliance problems with accrediting agencies. There can be serious consequences for the university when syllabi indicate routine online interaction not reflected in the registration status of courses.

SCHEV and other agencies insist that any course with at least 50% of interaction online be defined as hybrid/blended, but it is fine to have that percentage go lower. The trend now is to go lower. Currently, the English and Modern Languages Department, for example, has a number of classes that have one out of three class meetings online, yet these are listed as fully face-to-face courses. Our definition would address that problem.  We have discussed this proposed change with representatives from departments all over the university and with SCHEV and have their approval.   The Registrar is also in agreement about the need for this. Once the change is made, department chairs would need to attend to the coding of classes.

**SUMMARY** OF NEW POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES OR DELETIONS TO AN EXISTING POLICY
(Provide a brief list or statement describing the content of the policy or the proposed changes or deletions):

- Blended/Hybrid classes are currently defined as those with at least 50% but less than 100% online instructor-student contact.
- We propose changing that definition to at least 30% but less than 100% online and removing two commas.
- See the complete text below.

**RATIONALE** FOR THE POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES (Provide a brief statement as to why the new policy, the changes, or the deletion is needed):

Current definitions do not allow for the registration status of many courses to be accurately described.  This causes two problems: students cannot tell how much of a course is offered online; there can be serious consequences for the university when syllabi indicate routine online interaction not reflected in the registration status of courses.


Date submitted to Senate Executive Committee for Consideration: _____April 23, 2015_____

Action(s) Taken:

Date first read at Faculty Senate:_____

Action(s) Taken:

Date final action taken by Faculty Senate: _____

Final action(s) Taken:

**T. ONLINE AND BLENDED/HYBRID TEACHING AND LEARNING AT LONGWOOD, p. 57**

**The current language and proposed changes are combined here as you requested:**

*II. Definitions*

    B.   Blended/Hybrid: at least ~~50%~~ 30%~~,~~ but less than 100%~~,~~ online instructor-student contact *(more than ~~6.25~~ 3.75 but less than 12.5 online contact hours per credit hour)*

**In case you need to see them separately, here they are:**

**Current Language in the *FPPM***
*II. Definitions*

    B.   Blended/Hybrid: at least 50%, but less than 100%, online instructor-student contact *(more than 6.25 but less than 12.5 online contact hours per credit hour)*

**Proposed Language**
    **B.**  Blended/Hybrid: at least 30% but less than 100% online instructor-student contact (*at least 3.75 but less than 12.5 online contact hours per credit hour*).