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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2013

Opening:

Claire Strom called to order the regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee at 12:32 pm on October, 2013 in CSS 167.

Present:

Claire Strom, Vidhu Aggarwal, Gloria Cook, Philip Deaver, Susan Walsh, Jonathan Walz, Katia Chadaideh (student), Gabrielle Massé (student)

Visitors: Jennifer Cavanaugh, Leslie Poole, Lee Lines, Thom Moore, Sharon Lusk, Robin Mateo

A. ESCU Realignment – Leslie Poole

Leslie Poole proposed to realign courses in the Environment Studies and Civic Urbanism major at Holt so that they are more in line with their A & S major. This proposal will streamline the core courses to 10. Susan Walsh asked if they will be able to offer enough Holt classes with this realignment and Leslie assured the Committee that they will be able to. Lee Lines also pointed out that this realignment will give students more alternatives with their elective offerings. Leslie added that current students can have the option to stay in the old program or switch to the new one.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed ESCU realignment in the Holt School

B. Pre-engineering Program – Thom Moore

Thom Moore proposed a small change to the current pre-engineering program, substituting the senior capstone with a lab course. He stated that the lab course will have more writing that will be more beneficial to the students. Susan Walsh asked if the senior capstone will be missed in this program. Thom did not think this change will make a big difference and further emphasized that the writing component in the lab course will be more important to the students in the long run.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed the change to substitute the senior capstone with a lab course in the Pre-engineering Program.

C. Claire Strom – Self Designed Major (Hannah Cody)

Claire noted that Hannah Cody’s self-designed course proposal does meet all the criteria of the upper level courses. Jonathan agreed that if her proposal met the criteria, the Committee should vote to approve her proposal.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposal of Hannah Cody’s self – designed major.

D. Triple Majors – Robin Mateo

Although we currently do not have any students listed with a triple major and/or minor, Robin Mateo explained that we have had requests. One request was for a triple major from a recent graduate, the second was for a current student who would like to declare three minors. Robin noted that we do not have any guidelines in our catalog concerning triple majors.

Susan Walsh pointed out the issue of double counting that was discussed at AAC last year. Jonathan Walz clarified that double counting was disputed in cases of triple minor or one major and two minors. Claire Strom stated that we do not have rules for triple counting and questioned the rigor and creditability of having a triple major. Jennifer Cavanaugh explained that double counting was done probably more in the area of interdisciplinary studies. Claire felt that we need to look at this issue and frame it into three questions:

- 1) Should we allow a triple major?
- 2) Should we allow a triple minor?
- 3) How are classes being counted if we allow a triple major and minor?
Susan Walsh stated that we cannot triple count our classes in terms of a triple major.

Jonathan Walz suggested that we might want to consider the following;

- 1) no triple major
- 2) no triple counting.

Phil Deaver questioned how we should go about solving the issue of counting classes in the area of interdisciplinary studies. Gloria pointed out that other schools created interdisciplinary centers with interdisciplinary majors and minors. It is a new approach to help students design their own areas of study without double nor triple counting courses.

Gabrielle Massé agreed that a triple major would defeat the rigor of our academic programs.

Finally, it was agreed that we will not allow a triple major. Claire proposed that we add a statement to the catalog indicating that “no class can be counted for more than two programs.”

By vote, AAC unanimously approved to disallow a triple major at A &S and that the statement above should be added to the catalog.

E) No meeting next week October 15th, 2013 (Fall Break)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Claire Strom at 1:17 p.m. The next AAC meeting will be held at 12:30 on October 22nd in CSS 167.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Gloria Cook

Minutes approved by
