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Minutes, Arts and Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Arts and Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes – August 30, 2011

In attendance: Gloria Cook (Chair & Secretary), Jana Mathews, Sebastian Novak, Wenxian Zhang, Jennifer Cavanaugh (Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences)

Guests in attendance: Sharon Lusk (Holt), Giselda Beaudin (Director of International Programs)

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m.

New Business:

1. Giselda Beaudin from International Programs presented two overseas study proposals:

Expanding the Rollins Partnership with SIT Study Abroad – A World Learning Program

This proposal involves expanding a Rollins partnership with the SIT study abroad program. The Anthropology Department was the first to request IP for this expansion. IP believes that the expansion of SIT will help not only students of the Anthropology Department, but also other disciplines such as Environmental Studies and minor programs such as African American studies. Giselda stated that CIT, with its history of strong student support, has had a very successful relationship with Rollins. Giselda further stated that CIT is an American Institution that provides student evaluations on its website. The evaluations can be easily accessed by students and faculty. Giselda felt that CIT can complement our flagship programs and provide Rollins students opportunities to study abroad in the developing world.

International Studies Abroad in Argentina

The second proposal by IP echoed the need for a semester study abroad option in Latin-America. Although Rollins has well established study abroad programs, Giselda pointed out that it still does not offer many options compared to some of our aspirant schools. She pointed out that she has been tracking students who are studying abroad outside the Rollins program and she would like to see the revenue coming back to Rollins by getting students to study abroad through the Rollins programs. IP proposed to partner with the International Studies Abroad (ISA) program that has a specific focus on Latin America. The ISA program will be conducted at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The courses will be offered both in Spanish and English. ISA runs their own academic component of the program and students will be placed with host families and will be totally immersed in the culture and lives of the area. Giselda pointed out that ISA has been affiliated with many US institutions and has qualified resident staff members for all their programs. She also pointed out that Dr. Ashley Kistler, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, is familiar with ISA through her studies at Muhlenberg College. Sebastian complimented the work of IP and stated that he would have studied abroad had it been offered in his sophomore and junior years. Gloria asked for a clarification of the work of the International Studies Committee at Rollins and whether AAC is duplicating their work. Giselda explained that the International Studies Committee focused on short term field studies and she plans to take any long term IP proposals to AAC. Gloria also complimented Giselda for her detailed proposals.

Sebastian then made a motion to accept the two proposals from International Studies and Gloria seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Fiona Harper voted in absentia.

2. Jenny Cavanaugh made some brief remarks about the "N" requirement waiver and the RP evaluation process. AAC will be looking into these two separate matters at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Gloria Cook
Chair & Secretary