

12-4-2014

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, December 4, 2014

Arts & Sciences Executive Committee

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ROLLINS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
December 04, 2014
Agenda

12:30PM in CSS 167

Lunch will be served

- I. Call to order**
- II. Approval of Minutes from 11/13/ 14**
- III. New Business**
Yik Yak responses from SLC and AAC (Mamta Accapadi) [\[see Attachment 1, below\]](#)
- IV. Reports**
- V. Old Business**
 - a. Pilot program on grade point averages for International programs (AAC)
Motion to approve the pilot policy for the International Programs GPA as permanent policy [\[see Attachment 2, below\]](#)
 - b. INB/BSE
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Faculty Membership on BOT (F&S) [\[see Attachment 3, below\]](#)
 - b. QEP position question (F&S)
- VII. Adjournment**



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 04, 2014

Minutes

Approved

PRESENT

Carol Lauer; Thomas Ouellette; Carol Bresnahan; Bob Smither; Jill Jones; Don Davison; Fiona Harper; Derrick Paladino; Elise Ablin; Mamata Acapadi; Craig MacAllaster; Jay Yellen; Kenna Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

Carol Lauer called the meeting to order at 12:32PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM

EC unanimously approved the minutes from the 11/13/2014 meeting.

To accommodate visitors' schedules, Lauer moved the standing committee reports to the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

YIK YAK RESPONSES

Mamta Accapadi, Vice President for Student Affairs [\[see Attachment #1, below\]](#)

Accapadi briefly outlined the two recent instances wherein Rollins students responded to on-campus events via the anonymous online platform YikYak. The student responses were posted in real time during a discussion of income inequality and, days later, during a student protest in response to the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri and elsewhere. Accapadi said that many community members found the remarks patently offensive. "I know that this is a feeling of ick," Accapadi said, described the community's reaction once the postings were made public. (The online postings disappear from the site after a time, but many were captured and subsequently distributed to faculty, administrators, and students.)

Accapadi said that the Rollins community "is coming together to discuss important issues" raised by the remarks; she urged the community to "take ownership of the campus climate." Accapadi indicated that the environment of a liberal arts institution "provides us an opportunity and a platform" to tackle complex issues "around an ethos of critical thinking." She called for a "vaccination of the consciousness" at Rollins and said that such "vaccination needs to be ongoing." Thomas Ouellette asked if there was any reliable way to determine the scope of the problem, to quantify how many students posted remarks and how many other students *thumbs-upped* or *thumbs-downed* the offensive postings. Echoing this question regarding the extent of the problem, Don Davison asked Accapadi to which level of the problem her office will respond. Accapadi said that she believes "the vast majority of [Rollins] students" find the remarks deeply

offensive” and that some feel threatened by them; she said that she and others need to affirm the community values reflected in the College’s anti-discrimination policy.

Derrick Paladino, Student Life Committee (SLC) Chair, said that he wanted to make three points regarding the YikYak remarks: that he looked for a clear and swift “message coming from the administration” condemning the postings and naming them as antithetical to Rollins’ values; that he called for “accountability for those who post on social media;” and that he urged further “communication about resolution of these problems.”

There was a lengthy discussion about social media sites in general and anonymous modes of communication in particular. Student Government Association (SGA) President Elise Ablin called the suggested ban of the YikYak site “an overreaction,” and argued that most students use it for very benign reasons.

Lauer asked the Chairs of The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), Professional Standards Committee (PSC) and SLC to continue discussion within their respective committees.

Lauer said that Professors Emily Russell and Jay Yellen have crafted a statement condemning the remarks [see Attachment #1, below] and will ask President MacAllaster to sign it [MacAllaster attended this EC meeting but arrived late, after this discussion.]. Lauer discussed bringing the statement to upcoming A&S faculty meeting, asking the body to endorse it and to reject “this mode of anonymous communication.” The EC voted unanimously to bring the statement to the A&S faculty meeting on December 10, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO APPROVE AS PERMANENT THE PILOT POLICY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS GPA

Jill Jones (AAC) [see Attachment 2, below]

Jones provided some context regarding the policy and summarized the report presented to the AAC by Director of International Programs Giselda Beaudin. Beaudin reported she that the pilot program establishing an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 for admission to Rollins approved semester abroad programs. Beaudin presented data collected for the spring 2013, fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters that indicates that while 32% of participants had a GPA below 3.0 in the term **prior** to studying abroad, 83% of those students had the same or better current cumulative GPA. upon returning to Rollins. Jones said that the AAC had voted unanimously to approve the policy; Lauer asked EC to vote and they did the same.

After some discussion about whether or not this policy required a vote by the full A&S faculty, it was decided that Jones would report on the approval of the policy and that the faculty could pose questions or request a vote at that time.

INB/BSE

Carol Lauer, Craig MacAllaster

President MacAllaster reported that he had made a decision vis-a-vis a resolution to the INB/BSE/A&S/CPS conflict. He reiterated that the BoT charged him with resolving the question regarding where (in which schools of the College) the respective academic departments would

reside and with establishing (only) one accredited business major at Rollins. MacAllaster said that he would communicate first with the BoT, then with the stakeholders in the affected departments, then with the College as a whole. He said that he was “relieved” to have made a decision and that he believes it represents the most logical, “workable” solution. Lauer said that many at Rollins, herself included, were also fatigued by the drawn-out process and agreed that the decision should be widely announced as soon as possible. MacAllaster agreed.

NEW BUSINESS, continued

FACULTY MEMBERSHIP ON BoT (F&S)

Don Davison [see Attachment 3, below]

Davison answered some questions about the structure of the Rollins BoT and described an earlier, similar request for faculty representation made by the A&S faculty, subsequently rejected by the BoT. Ouellette asked Davison about the timing of the request and if Davison knew the outcome anticipated by the faculty who crafted the request. Lauer said during a conference call with Rollins BoT Chair David Lord in August 2014, Lord explicitly rejected the idea of faculty representation on the BoT. Ablin suggested “taking the lead” by inviting BoT members to meet with faculty; Lauer said that three such meetings had taken place during the fall 2014 semester and “were positive” and productive. Lauer expressed a willingness to discuss the request with the full faculty but questioned the timing of it. The EC will continue this discussion in January.

QEP POSITION QUESTION (F&S)

Don Davison

Davison reported that some faculty had expressed to him concern that the position of Director of R-Compass, Rollins’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was open to non-tenured faculty. Davison reported concern that “since fully 2/3 of that work [of the QEP Director]” would be service” that it may create problems for non-tenured faculty looking to meet the teaching/scholarship/service criteria for tenure and promotion. Provost Carol Bresnahan drew a distinction between non-tenured and tenure track faculty; she thanked the EC and said “I appreciate the response.”

REPORTS

No reports at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Lauer

Lauer adjourned the meeting at 1:56PM.

ATTACHMENT 1

YIK YAK RESPONSE

There is no place in our community for hate speech. Making anonymous, hateful remarks on sites like YikYak is cowardly and antithetical to liberal arts values, which embrace open dialogue about a range of ideas and perspectives. Our campus has a clear anti-discrimination policy condemning racist, sexist, and homophobic acts. We call on our community to stand by our values and speak out against hatred in whatever forms it takes.

**International Programs GPA Requirement for Approved Semester Programs
Report on Pilot Policy**

Pilot Policy (in effect as of spring 2013 when it was approved by AAC and CPS)

- The overall minimum GPA for admission to Rollins approved semester programs will be 2.5
- All programs will still require good college standing, an excellent record of personal responsibility (e.g. community standards record, service to the Rollins community, employment history) and a high level of maturity.
- Applicants will also be evaluated on the basis of their application essay, academic references, and Rollins transcript
- Applicants must also meet all other program-specific application requirements which include program-specific GPA requirements (range from 2.5 to 3.2), language requirements, interviews, individual advising, resume workshops and other components required by IP and the partner institution or organization.
- Students with a GPA of 2.45 or above may still be eligible for Rollins approved semester programs.
- Students with a GPA below 2.45 may make an academic appeal to be eligible through the Academic Appeals Committee

Summary

IP reviewed and analyzed participant data collected for the spring 2013, fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters. Overall, we feel the policy has been successful and has allowed us to expand access to study abroad and to set more appropriate program specific GPA requirements for our range of programs.

- 32% of participants had a GPA below 3.0 in the term prior to studying abroad.
- Of these students, 92% have the same or better current cumulative GPA.
- In comparison, 83% of students with above a 3.0 in the term prior do studying abroad have the same or better current cumulative GPA.
- Only two students earned less than a 2.5 GPA during the term abroad, one of whom left her program early and had to complete program coursework from afar while managing a challenging personal situation.
- In general the semester away has a positive academic impact: while 32% of participants had under 3.0 GPA for the term prior to studying abroad, only 11% of the participants have a current cumulative GPA under 3.0
- 88% of students on Approved Semester programs earned a 3.0 or better during the term away. Though this may seem high, within the field of study abroad higher grades during the term abroad are understood to be a result of three major components:
 - Students self-select for study away and tend to be motivated towards the experience
 - Students are usually not representative of the entire student body since the requirements and application process bars the weakest students from participation
 - Outside of a few of our University-based programs, study abroad courses tend to emphasize fieldwork, reflection, and out-of-the-classroom learning, all of which students perceive as fun and easier than traditional coursework.
- For programs with a GPA requirement above 3.0 (University of Sydney, Queen Mary University, etc.), students had an average GPA for the term abroad of 3.36

- For programs with a GPA requirement under 3.0 (CAPA London, University of Belgrano, University of Oviedo), students had an average GPA for the term abroad. of 3.58
- Study Abroad participation rates have not substantially increased due to the policy but continue to rise and fall with the highest semester participation rates occurring in the 2012-13 academic year (prior to this policy taking effect).

Data Snapshots and Samplings

GPA for the Term Prior to Semester Away		
Rollins Approved Below 3.0	24	31.58%
Rollins Approved Above 3.0	152	86.36%
Term Abroad GPA		
Rollins Approved Below 3.0	16	9.09%
Rollins Approved Above 3.0	154	87.50%
Unknown*	6	3.41%
Current Cumulative GPA		
Rollins Approved Below 3.0	19	10.80%
Rollins Approved Above 3.0	157	89.20%

*Some semester term GPAs were not pulling from Banner or were not available yet.

Comparison: Students with below 3.0 in the term prior to the semester away			
Prior Term GPA	Program Term GPA	Current Overall GPA	Difference from Prior To Current
2.33	1.25	2.14	-0.2
2.36	2.83	2.42	0.1
2.49	2.52	2.6	0.1
2.59	2.64	2.47	-0.1
2.61	3.75	2.8	0.2
2.65	3.74	3.02	0.4
2.66	3.58	2.83	0.2
2.68	2.7	2.7	0.0
2.75	3.5	2.73	0.0
2.78	3	2.85	0.1
2.81	0	2.81	0.0
2.81	2.91	2.8	0.0
2.84	3.54	3.1	0.3
2.88	3.8	3.14	0.3

2.89	3.03	2.91	0.0
2.89	3.16	3.08	0.2
2.91	3	2.98	0.1
2.91	3.59	3.12	0.2
2.92	3.43	3.2	0.3
2.95	3.08	2.97	0.0
2.95	3.16	2.97	0.0
2.97	3.58	3.14	0.2
2.98	2.67	2.97	0.0
2.99	3.4	2.97	0.0

Comparison: Sampling of Students with above 3.0 in the term prior to the semester away				
Prior Term GPA	Program Term GPA	Current Overall GPA	Difference from Prior To Current	
3.01	3.66	3.1	0.1	
3.08	3.61	2.78	-0.3	
3.2	3.33	3.29	0.1	
3.34	3.08	3.16	-0.2	
3.4	3.56	3.43	0.0	
3.43	3.91	3.51	0.1	
3.5	3.94	3.61	0.1	
3.54	3.33	3.54	0.0	
3.6	3.83	3.63	0.0	
3.63	3.6	3.63	0.0	
3.66	3.5	3.63	0.0	
3.7	3.58	3.7	0.0	
3.73	4	3.79	0.1	
3.76	3.81	3.79	0.0	
3.8	3.66	3.8	0.0	
3.83	3.55	3.76	-0.1	
3.87	3.91	3.85	0.0	
3.9	3.86	3.92	0.0	
3.95	3.11	3.8	-0.2	
4	4	4	0.0	

ATTACHMENT 3

F&S-APPROVED RESOLUTION REGARDING FACULTY REPRESENTATION ON THE BoT.

To enhance communication and understanding across the College, the Arts and Sciences faculty respectfully invite the Board of Trustees to allow the chairs of the Academic Affairs, Finance and Service, and Student Life committees to attend their corresponding sub-committee meetings of the Board. The faculty also requests that one faculty member attend meetings of the Board of Trustees.

The Executive Committee of the Arts and Sciences faculty will develop a slate of candidates for approval by the A&S Faculty. This proposed non-voting representative serves a three-year term.