

2-13-2014

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 13, 2014

Arts & Sciences Executive Committee

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 13, 2014
Agenda

12:30 in CSS 167
Lunch will be served

I Call to order

II Approval of minutes from 1/30/14 EC meeting
Approval of amended minutes from 11/07/13 EC meeting
Thomas Ouellette

III Report

V New Business

Honors Degree proposal (see attachment)
Ryan Musgrave

Redundancies in programs and credit/no credit options (AAC)
Claire Strom

Tenure and Promotion criteria
Carol Lauer



ROLLINS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 13, 2014 Minutes
Approved



PRESENT

Carol Lauer; Thomas Ouellette; Claire Strom; Hoyt Edge; Yusheng Yao; Carol Bresnahan; Robert Salmeron; Bob Smither; Ryan Musgrave; Christopher Fuse

CALL TO ORDER

12:33PM; by Carol Lauer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 01/30/14 and 11/07/2013

EC unanimously approved the minutes from the 01/30/2014 meeting and the slightly amended minutes from the 11/07/2013 meeting.

Lauer began the meeting with New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

HONORS DEGREE PROPOSAL (see Attachment 1)

Ryan Musgrave

To frame the discussion, Musgrave began by outlining “the backstory that matters”: The Honors program has been “cooking along, handling the delivery” of general education requirements to Honors students. Alongside this, the soon-to-be-launched rFLA program is crafting a similar program for non-Honors students. “It didn’t seem wise,” Musgrave said, to require Honors students to take on two sets of general education requirements, so the proposal was designed to mirror the rFLA model, whenever possible.

One proposed change, designed “in an effort to make Honors feels less gated” and to echo a key component of the new rFLA model, Musgrave said, is to open up some Honors courses to non-Honors students. A discussion followed, centering on the rationale behind and merits of folding non-Honors into Honors courses. Lauer said she was “a little worried about it working against the building of a cohort” of Honors students; Carol Bresnahan expressed a concern that non-Honors students might feel marginalized because Honors student would readily recognize outliers. Musgrave said that non-Honors students who fared well would be encouraged to enroll in the Honors program. The Carols Lauer and Bresnahan pointed out that this possibility of students “stepping up” to the Honors program was not explicit in the proposal, as submitted. Lauer suggested that Musgrave revise the proposal to make explicit this connection. Claire Strom resisted the notion of connecting the opening up of Honors classes with the possibility of increasing the ranks of the Honors program. “That was not the committee’s [Academic Affairs

Committee's] understanding," Strom said, when the proposal was discussed and approved by the AAC. After a brief discussion, Lauer withdrew her request.

Musgrave moved to the question of students who withdraw from the Honors program. Historically, these students received a letter outlining which general education requirements were and were not satisfied during students' tenure in the Honors program. Musgrave said that the new proposal follows the model crafted by the rFLA program to handle transfer students' credits.

Robert Salmeron asked, "when is the latest a student can come into Honors?" Musgrave said that students could conceivably join the Honors program up through the second semester of the Sophomore year.

Strom said that some faculty members, within and outside the AAC, have more comprehensive questions about the Honors program. Some colleagues, Strom said, "would like to see it [the Honors program] disbanded." Ouellette suggested that time-sensitive questions about delivery of general education credits might be separated from these "more global concerns" regarding the future of the Honors program. There was agreement that a policy regarding delivery of general education courses for Honors students must be in place before August 2014, when the first group of incoming students will embark on the "neighborhood" model.

Musgrave announced that faculty had received an invitation to an upcoming gathering of Honors faculty and students the French House (see Attachment 2).

Musgrave and Fuse were invited to leave the meeting at the conclusion of their presentation. At this point, Lauer said that she understood that Bob Smither had an announcement.

Smithers' announcement that he planned to step down as Dean of Faculty "after the next [academic] year" was met with stunned silence. Bresnahan pointed out that he would remain on the faculty for at least one additional academic year; that the decision was Smither's.

Bresnahan pointed out that the next scheduled A&S faculty meeting on Thursday, February 20 was scheduled directly opposite a Board of Trustees (BoT) lunch to which "possibly ten to thirteen" faculty from Arts and Sciences (A&S), College of Professional Studies (CPS), and the Holt School have been invited. Bresnahan said that this overlap occurred during last year's BoT February meeting and, at that time, the EC decided to cancel the A&S meeting. Lauer said that she would make a decision about moving or canceling the meeting after hearing reports from the Chairs of the standing committees.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT OF A&S

Carol Lauer

Lauer reported that the Executive Council had met and that she hoped to have a discussion with the Executive Committee members about questions raised at the meeting by President Duncan about criteria for tenure and promotion.

Lauer announced that she had been invited by Robert Salmeron, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), to meet with that body on February 26. Lauer asked Yusheng Yao, President of the Student Life Committee (SLC) to invite a faculty member currently serving on the SLC to attend the meeting, too.

AAC

Claire Strom

Strom said that AAC members had concerns about redundancy in course offerings but she would raise those later in the meeting.

F&S

Hoyt Edge

Edge reported that he had called for and received input from faculty regarding the projected budgetary shortfall and, to date, had received forty-four suggested strategies for cutting expenses and twenty-three suggestions for new revenue streams. Edge announced that he was still receiving feedback and would collate all of the ideas and send them out to the A&S faculty, ahead of Friday's colloquium. Edge said that some suggestions were meant to address problems "right away" while others focused on "more long term" strategies; Edge said that the colloquium would focus on the latter.

Edge said that Bill Short was slated to offer to students and staff a presentation on the projected budget shortfall similar to the one Short gave at the December A&S faculty meeting.

At the end of the F&S report, there was a discussion of the efficacy of soliciting input from so many constituencies regarding the projected shortfall. Ouellette asked Edge to comment; Edge said that he "had some of the same questions" and that he had "in fact, asked Bill Short if he thought it was too late" to address the shortfall via discussions with faculty, staff, and students. Bill Short assured him that he (Short) believed that it was *not* too late, Edge said.

Lauer asked if the formation of new Masters programs would, in fact, raise revenue, particularly in the short term. She pointed to a proposal from Joan Davison and mentioned that Dean of the Holt School Dave Richard recently reported that there was significant student interest in a Masters program in International Affairs.

Bresnahan said that she expected that, at its upcoming meeting, the BoT would "exercise its fiduciary responsibility to the College" by requesting a balanced budget but that she did not expect the BoT to "get into the weeds" regarding *how* the budget would be balanced.

SGA

Robert Salmeron

Salmeron said he had nothing new to report save that the SGA looked forward to a conversation with Lauer and a discussion about Family Weekend.

Salmeron asked about the status of the proposal for the Rollins Institute of Technology and the Arts (RITA). Lauer said that the latest discussions seemed to gravitate toward a model that would share the costs and benefits of an on-line presence via an alliance with other schools in the Association of Colleges of the South (ACS). Bresnahan agreed, but cautioned against “counting RITA out completely.”

SLC

Yusheng Yao

Yusheng Yao said the SLC had scheduled upcoming meetings with Mamta Accapadi, the Vice President for Student Affairs to discuss “core values for Rollins students” and with representatives of Residential Life to discuss the Rollins Conference Course (RCC) and Living Learning Center (LLC) initiatives. Yao said that the smoking policy was still the subject of discussion. Bresnahan asked Salmeron where the students stood on this and Salmeron said that “[his] take” was that most students support the current policy; that students were not ready to undertake an all-out smoking ban.

New Business (continued)

REDUNDANCIES IN PROGRAMS AND CREDIT/NO CREDIT OPTIONS (AAC)

Claire Strom

Strom said that the AAC was still gathering data regarding requested changes to the credit/no credit policy at Rollins and would report back to the EC at a subsequent meeting.

Strom reported that that the New Course Subcommittee of the AAC expressed “several concerns” about a pair of courses: the first called Business Law and Ethics and the second, International Business Law and Ethics, offered by the Business and Social Entrepreneurship Department (CPS) and the International Business Department (A&S), respectively. Strom described the two discrete course offerings as “pretty much the same course” and expressed concern about redundancy across departments and schools of the College. Strom noted that the AAC does not know if either of the Teachers of Record for these courses holds an appropriate graduate degree and that, to the AAC’s knowledge, only one of the faculty members is, in fact, a faculty member in either business department.

Strom wondered if having non-Business faculty members teaching the course might jeopardize SACS accreditation. Bresnahan said that “her sense is that this [accreditation] will pass muster” and asked why two courses “that were virtually identical” could not be cross-listed. “And I can tell them [the two Business Departments] that the Provost said so?”, said Strom. “Please do,” Bresnahan said.

The meeting concluded with a brief return to the discussion about the future of the Honors program and then Lauer said that she wanted to “save” for another time the discussion of President Duncan’s suggestions regarding tenure and promotion criteria at Rollins. Lauer *did*

decide to cancel the upcoming A&S faculty meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 20 to accommodate the BoT luncheon. The EC members discussed scheduling an additional EC meeting in its stead.

ATTACHMENT 1

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014

HDP Advisory Council @ Executive Council

From: Dr. Ryan Musgrave, HDP Director

& HDP Advisory Council: Dr. Dan Crozier (Expressive Arts)

Dr. Denise Cummings (Humanities)

Dr. Chris Fuse (Natural Sciences)

Dr. Rachel Newcomb (Social Sciences)

Re: policy clarification on interface between HDP and new rFLA

policy clarification re:

interface between Honors Degree Program (HDP) for separate degree of *Artium Baccalaureus Honoris* and new rFLA General Education program

POLICY FOR ADOPTION (with unanimous AAC support)

- (1) Rollins HDP students will not be required to fulfill rFLA neighborhood courses.
- (2) Non-HDP students will be (newly) welcome to take HON 202 (1st-year colloquia: cultures + civilization topics, 2 sections offered each spring) or HON 301 (2nd-yr colloquia: sciences topics, 2 sections offered each fall) for elective credit. Required: a request by the interested student, and approval of course instructor(s) and HDP Advisory Council.
- (3) If a student leaves the HDP, having fulfilled part of their GenEd curriculum via HDP, but not the full amount: to figure what remainder of GenEd neighborhood courses they must complete, they will follow the same policy under rFLA as transfer students who come in. (See “rationales” for specific policy.)

RATIONALES

- (1) Given that Rollins HDP students currently fulfill their General Education curriculum via their HON courses (curriculum of 5 interdisciplinary courses + Senior thesis), they will not be required beyond this to also fulfill rFLA neighborhood courses. Doing so would unnecessarily duplicate their GenEd requirements. HDP students will continue to normally complete all other competencies (writing, language, math), as they currently do, separately from the HDP curriculum.
- (2) To help the HDP exist as less of a “gated” program, and to promote new ideas/viewpoints within the Honors cohort classes, allowing interested students to request “in” to some of the Honors courses seems useful for all. Since 3 of the 5 required HDP courses have a specific cohort-building function (HON 201-RCC; HON 302-Research Methods; HON 490: Darrah Senior Synoptic/Capstone), the HDP Advisory Council identified the 2 remaining “topical” courses in the HDP sequence - HON 202 (1st year colloquia: Cultures + Civilizations) and HON 301 (2nd-yr colloquia: Sciences) - as the most suitable courses into which we can easily welcome non-HDP students. While we do not anticipate a huge surge of students interested in this, both the openness of such

a policy and the advantages to any Rollins students overall seems an improvement.

- (3) Currently, if a student leaves the HDP, (s)he is responsible for completing the remainder of unmet GenEd letters/courses. This is now determined by the Dean's office on an individualized basis, and the student is notified as to the adjusted GenEd requirements so they can plan accordingly. With rFLA in place, using the policy created for placing transfer students seems a simple and straightforward mechanism by which to also place the few students who will be in this situation due to withdrawing or dismissal from the HDP. The rFLA policy is this: the program will assess for each student whether (s)he should (a)start fresh and complete the full rFLA neighborhood curriculum; or (b) complete an abbreviated version of the neighborhood curriculum; or (c) do not need to complete any further rFLA courses.

Reminder of HDP required curriculum for degree *Artium Baccalaureus Honoris*, 5 + thesis + presentation:

HON 201- RCC

HON 202- 1st Yr. Colloquium, Cultures + Civilizations

HON 301- 2nd Yr. Colloquium, Sciences

HON 302- Research Methods

HON 490: Darrah Sr. Synoptic

+ 2-term Honors thesis project, + end-of-Senior-year Presentation of research to general audience

Other timely developments in HDP program, running parallel to rFLA

- **HDP, the model for rFLA.** As a GenEd delivery system of related interdisciplinary courses, rFLA was itself consciously modeled on the HDP "5 + thesis" curriculum structure. This underscores the fact that the two programs achieve the same goal (GenEd delivery) for different Rollins constituents; requiring any group of students to do both would be an undue burden.
- **HDP recent updates, some built to streamline with rFLA.** Three faculty members have been well-positioned over the past 2 years to help HDP interface productively with the new rFLA. Musgrave, Newcomb, and Fuse have worked as a "bridge," serving both on the HDP Advisory Council and on the rFLA committee during this time. We have been able to update the HDP in ways that help streamline it with rFLA, as both programs run parallel to deliver GenEd curriculum to their respective groups:
 - HDP update: 2 HDP courses (4 sections) now open to any non-HDP students who might want to take them for credit, with permission of faculty member teaching the course (makes HDP less gated)
 - HDP update: assessment of LEAP learning outcomes that are appropriate for

developmental steps of each HDP course; parallels rFLA (Dr. James Zimmerman assisted building assessment plan for both)

- HDP update: newly-adopted portfolios (in addition to thesis), parallel to rFLA
- HDP update: Faculty teaching HDP courses are strongly encouraged to attend faculty course development workshops run for rFLA faculty
- HDP update: newly-adopted theme “Honors: Great Conversations” helps better identify it as a parallel, cohesive, GenEd curriculum. **(HDP OPEN COLLOQUIUM FRI., FEB. 21, French House Lounge)**
- **HDP broad mission & program autonomy.** The main task of rFLA is the delivery of a robust GenEd curriculum; HDP shares this task for Honors students, but is also tasked to oversee, update, and implement policies/procedures in the HDP Handbook. As such, rFLA and HDP operate in parallel fashion to each deliver GenEd curricula: but HDP also attends to these other responsibilities for the Rollins Honors student cohort.
 - (a) upholding the minimum 3.33 GPA requirement
 - (b) probations, dismissals, and new invitations to the HDP
 - (c) programming for the 100+ Honors student cohort as a whole, and programming
 - specific to each year cohort of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th year students
 - (d) assisting HDP Juniors navigate submission of their Sr-year-thesis-plan, and HDP Seniors with their Sr. thesis work and eventual thesis defense
 - (e) organizing the depositing of Sr. theses with Olin Library
 - (e) organizing Senior presentations of discipline-specific thesis projects to layperson audience
 - (f) new HDP aims that have evolved:
 - assisting Dr. J. in the Office of External & Competitive Scholarships to facilitate
 - the high percentage of HDP students processing scholarship applications
 - assisting HDP students in networking with Rollins HDP alumni

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Ryan Musgrave & HDP Advisory Council

...You're Invited!

**Colloquium + Reception for
Honors Degree Program
*Artium Baccalaureus Honoris***

GREAT CONVERSATIONS

WHERE

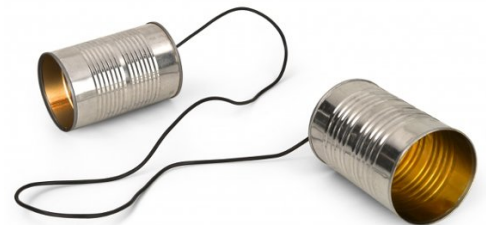
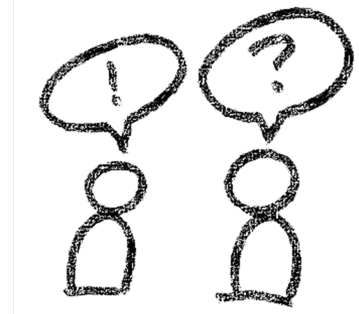
French House (behind Ward Hall)

WHEN

Fri, Feb. 21, 12pm – 2pm

WHAT

Want to start a *Great Conversation* with an Honors course? Interested in teamteaching? Come learn more about the updated program, student projects, and what you can contribute to Honors.



Questions? Wonderments? Contact Dr. Ryan Musgrave (rmusgrave@rollins.edu) or Dawn Ames (dames@rollins.edu)