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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee was called to order at 12:35 pm in the Chapel-Room Classroom #1 by Gloria Cook.

Present:

Mark Anderson, Sarah Bishop, Gloria Cook, Jana Matthews, Sebastian Novak, Maria Ruiz, Samuel Sanabria, Wenxian Zhang

Visitors:

Jennifer Cavanaugh, Martha Cheng, Rachel Simmons, Paul Stephenson, Susan Walsh

A. New Business (2 items)

(Item 1) Report of Curriculum Revision Committee 2 (CRC2) (subcommittee of AAC)

Simmons handed out a draft report of Enhancing Academic Excellence, written by the Strategic Planning Work Group on Enhancing Academic Excellence (EAE). There was a lot of cross over and communication between the two committees, EAE and CRC2, dealing with 1) teaching load, 2) student load (hours required for graduation), and 3) teaching practices (independent studies, summer research, team teaching, community engagement, etc.). Rather than tackling with each of these issues independently, the committees were trying to deal with them more holistically, since they are all interconnected.

The committee gathered and studied data and created a feasible plan, which received positive reviews at the colloquium they held.

Part of the proposal is to change the normal teaching load of faculty at Rollins to a 3-2 plan, recognizing the work that faculty are already doing: independent studies, team teaching, community engagement, etc. Many of our faculty are currently teaching a 3-2 load, due to some other responsibility they have (department chair, program director, endowed chair, first-year tenure track, midterm tenure track, etc.) or to some deal they have been able to negotiate. Rather than having some faculty getting 3-2 loads and others not, the proposal is that everyone get a 3-2 load.

There is a question as to how to count courses. At Smith, a science class with lab counts as two full courses: one for the lecture portion of the class and one for the lab.

The question was raised as to whether or not the committee had considered separating faculty load from student load. So that what a course counts toward a faculty members load may be different from what it counts towards student load. This is already done somewhat with RCC classes, where faculty receive credit (or money) for teaching 6 hours, while students receive 4 hours of credit. This may also have bearing on science labs and other courses.

Someone needs to meet with departments that have used the old general education program to fill courses for their major to make sure they adjust in a way that helps us offer all the courses we need for the new general education program.

The question was raised why the number of hours for graduation should be 128. If students take four four-hour courses each semester and three PE courses and take a science lab, then they will have earned 133 credit hours. Shouldn't this be the requirement for graduation? And what about IFT courses. Will we still count those?

If we reduce the number of credit hours for graduation and start charging students extra if they take an excessive number of hours in a semester, will this inhibit students from being able to double major?

If we are going to a 3-2 load for faculty, should we require something extra from faculty to legitimize the course release? Seems many in the room didn't see a need to do this. That most faculty already do enough extra to legitimize a 3-2 load. It is also very hard to quantify how much work courses take. We could look at the FSARs to see what extra things faculty are doing.

So, what do we do with the document from the CRC2?

Rachel needs help gathering data. She will come up with specific ideas of data she would like to have and then meet with people from the Dean's office to see about getting it.

CRC and EAE should unite and together create a proposal to bring to the faculty.

Specifically, we need to see how this all ties into the new general education program.

Maybe we could use the Faculty Retreat in the Fall to discuss the proposal with the full faculty.

(Item 2) Implementation Committee for the New General Education Program

The committee should have a representative from

- AAC
- PR Steering Committee
- RCC (Gabriel?)
- RP Coordinators (Judy and Thom?)
- Mark Anderson
- Person from each Division and CPS (Tonia?)
- James Zimmerman?
- Robin Mateo

- Two students

It was suggested that we put out a call for people interested on working on the Implementation Committee. We could use this list to help build the committee.

Gloria will draft a letter stating what the tasks of the implementation committee would be and we will work on that at next weeks meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm by Gloria Cook. The next general meeting will be at 12:30 pm on April 17th in Chapel-Room Classroom #1.

Minutes submitted by:

Mark Anderson