

2-1-2011

## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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*Minutes approved at the AAC meeting of 2/15/11*

AAC Minutes – February 1, 2011

In attendance: Barry Levis (Chair), Rick Bommeljje (Secretary), Gloria Cook, Sebastian Novak, Dawn Roe, Darren Stoub, Kristen Trucco, Martina Vidovic, Deb Wellman

Guests in attendance: Meghan Harte, Giselle Beaudin

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 PM.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting were approved.

## **New Business**

### **1. Pre-matriculation Program**

Barry provided an overview for the proposal to create a pre-matriculation program, otherwise known as the First Year Field Studies Program. For the past two summers there has been an experimental program for selected incoming freshmen to provide a short term, international experience. The purpose of this initiative is to provide grounding for freshmen before they come to campus and also assist with retention. Meghan pointed out that there is no literature to date that substantiates that there is an impact on retention. The intent of the proposal is to expand this program to include domestic experiences in addition to the international initiatives. There is also a need to have regularity and sustainability to the program. Barry also emphasized that the desire is to have more coordination between first year programs and international programs. Meghan re-stated that a few international experiences have been operating during the past two years and that they have been disconnected from Explorations and First Year Programs. She and Giselda have dialogued about the necessity for a coordinated effort between the two departments and the need to create a sustainable model that is offered with regularity. This would become part of the First Year program. Meghan reiterated that she has not seen any literature about these types of programs and retention. However, she did state that there is a significant amount of literature that states that the more attachment that is built with students, and the earlier, the more likely a student is to stay. Meghan emphasized that it is necessary that these programs must have well defined guidelines for faculty and staff that are assisting faculty. Giselda added that we have been piloting these programs as a pre-matriculation initiative. She and Meghan would like to expand the time frame to also include experiences that could come after the first semester. The two programs proposed for next year are Barry Allen's Costa Rica course in the summer and a revision to Li Wei's course to China that would be offered in December. Giselda stated that the admissions office is very positive about this type of programming. She pointed out that very few schools are doing this type of pre-matriculation programming and that Rollins would be on the cutting edge of offering study abroad experiences and domestic field experiences for students early in their college experience. It is important that

it is integrated with first year programs. The expectation is that this will be a small program, consisting of one to two programs in the summer and the same number during the year.

Barry stated that the assessment matrix will be very helpful because of the systemization. He queried about the domestic experiences and Meghan stated that they will most likely be service learning initiatives. There will be a core academic content embedded in each of the courses. The key will be finding appropriate domestic locations. Barry indicated that these would be 2 credit courses and credit/non-credit. Darren commented that it is important to maintain the idea of service learning and not just community service. The major difference between the two is that in service learning there is an emphasis on learning something from the experience versus fixing problems in the community, which is frequently the case in community service. Giselda stated that she and Mickey Myers are working together closely on all international service learning experiences. Darren also stated that community service initiatives do not necessarily warrant academic credit. Barry asked if the January course will be covered financially. Giselda stated that none of the inter-session field studies are covered by the tuition and there is an additional cost. There is also scholarship funding available. Meghan stated that we must be very specific about where the domestic trips will be held and also be prudent in keeping the costs down. Meghan also indicated that there is a site in Abaco Bahamas, which is fairly inexpensive. Rick asked if this is a formal proposal that is being brought to AAC. Barry confirmed this and, once approved, it will go to the full faculty. The title of the program is First Year Field studies courses. Darren queried about risk issues and Giselda indicated that there has been extensive coordination with Maria Martinez. There was discussion about students beyond freshmen being permitting to attend these programs. Barry stated that the program is designed as a first year program and that there could be exceptions made. Darren queried why we need to create the program. Barry responded that the main concern was with the pre-matriculation segment of the program and that there is a formalized process to insure that it is systematically administered. Meghan confirmed that this has not been done in the past and has led to confusion. Formalizing the process is necessary. Giselda stated that the other driving force is meeting the specific needs of the first year students.

**A motion was made by Dawn to approve the creation of the program entitled First Year Field Studies courses.**

**Sebastian seconded the motion.**

**A majority of the members voted for the motion and one member dissented.**

**Motion passes**

## **2. Suspension of "N" requirement**

Barry gave background on the renovation project of the Bush Science Center and the problems resulting from lack of space for lab courses. The science division is proposing that Junior and Seniors in 2013 and 2014 would be exempted from the N General Education requirement. Barry asked if this would create a backlog with students needing the N requirement. Darren stated that the assumption is that the renovation will take one academic year and that by temporarily eliminating the requirement for non-majors that it will release backlog. Barry stated that science majors would be fulfilling their lab requirements. Deb raised a question about Environmental Sciences majors. Barry indicated that this would be further examined in the issue of the problem

of science, environmental studies and some other departments with courses in their majors that carry the ON or PN requirement. This is the double dipping issue that has previously been mentioned. Barry asked if there were any concerns or objections about the proposal. Deb emphasized that the proposal was recommended from the members of the science division who determined how they can best meet the students' needs during the renovation period. Rick pointed out that we have no option to give them if we disapprove it.

**Sebastian made a motion to approve the proposal permitting Juniors and Seniors in 2013 and 2014 who are non-science majors be exempt from the N General Education requirement.**

**The motion was seconded by Gloria.**

**Motion passes unanimously**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM.

Rick Bommelje  
Secretary