

4-19-2011

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2011" (2011). *Academic Affairs Committee Minutes*. Paper 39.
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AAC Minutes – April 19, 2011

In attendance: Barry Levis (Chair), Rick Bommelje (Secretary), Gloria Cook, Chris Fuse, Sebastian Novak, Hillary Roviario, Darren Stoub, Martina Vidovic, Deb Wellman

Guests in attendance: Kenna Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM.

Minutes. The minutes of the April 5, 2011 meeting were approved.

Announcement

Barry announced that the new committee members will be at next week's meeting and officers will be elected.

New Business

1. Self-designed Major

Barry introduced Christian Kebbel's proposal for a self-designed major and asked if there were any concerns. Sebastian pointed out that it is Christian's second semester of the junior year and that this should be done in the sophomore year. Barry asked if this request had gone through the Academic Appeals committee and Rick stated that it was approved unanimously with little discussion. Chris asked if the request is not approved if he would graduate with his current major. Deb indicated in her conversation with him that the self-designed major was a better fit for him. Barry emphasized that the committee's role is to accept or reject his proposal. Chris indicated that he doesn't see this as different enough from his current double major and minor and does not see what he is gaining. Hillary asked about what his end goal is. Chris pointed that his proposal states that "the self-designed major incorporates the three disciplines that he is most passionate about and will offer his unique career opportunities after graduation". Chris emphasized that he already meets this with a double major and a minor. Gloria stated that he is taking upper level courses in all three areas. Deb shared that there are not many requests for the self-designed major and with with three faculty members who have an interest in working with him, she questioned would it would be opposed. Darren read the guidelines on Self-Designed majors and emphasized that we need to follow the guidelines. Barry indicated that we should not discourage students from doing this if thought has been put into it. Chris stated that he does not understand this request since he is getting his needs met through his double major and minor. Barry called for a vote

The motion passed for approving the self-designed major with a majority vote. 4 votes in favor; 2 votes against; 1 abstention

2. INB Proposal

Barry introduced the INB proposal. After initial discussion about the items presented in the proposal, Rick pointed out that the committee had adopted a ground rule in August 2010 that the department representative needs to be present with the proposal in order to respond to questions. Since there was no member of the INB department in attendance, there was a motion made to table the proposal.

The motion to table the proposal passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Rick Bommelje
Secretary