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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes – November 23, 2010

In attendance: Barry Levis (Chair), Alex Boguslawski, Rick Bommelje (Secretary), Gloria Cook, Chris Fuse, Lila Martin, Christian Ricaurte, Dawn Roe, Darren Stoub, Kristen Trucco, Martina Vidovic, Deb Wellman

Guests in attendance: John Sinclair, Sharon Lusk, Toni Holbrook, Rachel Simmons

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM.

Minutes. The minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were approved.

New Business

1. Proposed Changes to the Music Major

John proposed that a change be made to the core courses in the Music major, replacing MUS 190 Intro to Music Technology with MUS 330 Music in the Global Society. The rationale is that MUS 190 was inserted into the curriculum approximately twelve years ago and that today's students enter with a different technology skill set in which they already have acquired many of the components that are in MUS 190. The course would not be eliminated from the curriculum but would become an elective. In its place, an upper level 300 level course, MUS 330 Music in Global Society would be inserted. The emphasis on globalization would also add to making the curriculum more rigorous. Additionally, in reviewing all ASC institutions, Rollins was the only school that had MUS 190. The other institutions removed it years ago. The programs that the department aspires to emulate are Richmond, Davidson and Furman, and they all have a Music globalization course. In 2012, the department goes through the National Association of Schools of Music accreditation, which emphasizes having a music globalization course in the curriculum. John confirmed that MU 330 has been a part of the curriculum, but not as core course. Barry asked who would teach the course and John responded that there are 3 teachers available.

**Chris made a motion to accept the proposal and it was seconded by Alex.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Upon departing the meeting, John thanked the committee and also promised to bring lunch for committee members if he reappears on behalf of the Music department for additional changes in the curriculum within the next year.

2. Area studies major approval

Sophomore student Caitlin Jones submitted a proposal for an area studies major. Barry stated that students can create a self-designed major and that it must be interdisciplinary, involve three departments, and have a clearly defined rationale. Toni indicated that it could be illustrated with a Venn diagram and the overlapping of the three areas is where the purpose of the work occurs.

Darren queried why there are two independent studies included in the proposal. Toni stated that it is part of the rubric in the catalog. Darren asked about the psychology focus being covered by two unspecified London psychology courses and a study abroad program. Barry asked if the committee approves the changes. Toni stated that typically any changes are approved by the Dean; however, it could be stipulated that the committee would be the approving body. Dawn queried if she had approval from each of the three areas and Toni confirmed that there has been extensive coordination. Toni pointed out that the area studies major is an issue of breadth and depth across the disciplines. Barry stated that as part of the process, the committee would like to approve the London courses. Alex asked what the interest level is for students developing an area studies major and Toni responded that it is rarely done and is something for exceptional students. Toni emphasized that only 6 students have designed the area studies major in the past 20 years.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. Maymester

Barry stated that the Maymester issue is part of a broader problem. This involves the number of courses that students are bringing in from the outside and the fact that many are taking their Gen Eds elsewhere. Maymester is one solution to deal with this. The committee has also discussed the possibility of using the Holt School first six-week summer semester as an additional way to offer courses in the sciences and languages that would not suitably fit into a three-week format. One possibility is to raise the residence requirement from 64 to 70 hours, which is half of the graduation requirement. Toni indicated that this is how many ACS schools typically approach the issue. Barry stated that he would like to submit a package of recommendations on the issue rather than just Maymester itself. Toni stated that the Dean's office is approving hundreds of courses during the Spring term for students who desire to attend summer school elsewhere. Toni distributed an information sheet of the number of transfer courses that have been accepted for Summer terms during the past 4 years. The trend for transfer work accepted is exponential. Darren indicated that the Maymester was instituted because students were unable to get Gen Ed's during the regular year. Barry stated that another reason was to deter students from taking Gen Ed courses elsewhere. There was discussion about the course 'shopping' phenomenon taking place in which students load their schedules up with 16 to 18 hours in pre-registration and during the first two weeks they add and drop courses multiple times. Toni stated that there are some courses that have great demand. This includes lab sciences and some popular courses which causes a pent up demand. Toni believes that when the on-line registration process is instituted, it may remedy this issue. Darren asked if this is an advising issue. Gloria stated that she believes that it is an advising issue and that it is important for advisors to insure that the student course schedule is set. Toni indicated that there may be more effective ways to approach advising and have general education items handled by the Dean's office. Advisors can focus on the major and upper level issues. One of the biggest errors is that some advisors are not checking prerequisites. Kristen stated that one of the benefits for attending Rollins is to receive the one on one attention from advisors. Alex indicated that there is no good system for distributing advisees. Toni emphasized that department chairs assign advisees to the faculty.

Barry brought the conversation back to Maymester, transfer credits and residency requirements. Barry queried about the 6 week Holt School semester and if there are faculty in the languages and science courses to alleviate some of the demand. Sharon stated that currently Spanish is offered in this format during the summer. Toni stated that the Science Division is working hard to find faculty to teach the courses that are in demand. Chris indicated that there may be some science faculty who would teach a 6 week course as long as it does not conflict with their research initiatives. Kirsten asked if other schools require Gen Ed's to be taken at the institution only. Toni confirmed that there are a number of institutions that have this policy, including Elon. Barry asked if there would be chaos if we required that all Gen Ed's be taken at Rollins. Toni stated that the Provost would likely be supportive of this. A straw poll was taken on the each of the items and there was consensus on the following: extend Maymester to 4 weeks and a 6 week format in Holt; raise the residence requirement for A&S to 70 hours; and require that all Gen Ed courses to be taken at Rollins
Barry will develop a proposal.

3. Curriculum Revision Committee

Rachel reported the work that is being done by the curriculum revision committee (CRC 2). Two issues are being explored:

1. Is it possible to move our faculty load from 3/3 to 3/2 in line with peer/aspirant institutions?
2. Can we/should we bring down the required number of courses for graduation to be more in line with peer/aspirant institutions?

The findings to date indicate that most of our peer/aspirant institutions have a faculty load of 3/2 and a few have 2/2 loads. Most also require 32 hours to graduate, regardless of credit hours they give per course. By requiring fewer courses to graduate, these schools are able to sustain a 3/2 faculty teaching load. Given our emphasis on a high level of scholarly output and institutional service for pre and post tenure faculty, the committee believes it makes sense to bring our required number of courses for graduation in line with our peer/aspirant schools. The committee is examining a model at Stetson on faculty load. The model explores pedagogy from every discipline and the amount of student-to-faculty contact time required. Enrollment would vary by the delivery mode: lecture, discussion, lab, studio and independent study. The CRC2 agenda for the spring includes the following items: course releases; number of courses required for graduation; team-teaching; service learning; and field studies. Several departments (Music, Art, English, Economics and Biology) are currently working to apply the Stetson Model to their departments, looking for areas where the model may need to be adjusted.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Rick Bommelje
Secretary