

10-23-2012

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 23, 2012" (2012). *Academic Affairs Committee Minutes*. Paper 70.
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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee was called to order at 12:32 pm on October 23, 2012 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167 by Claire Strom.

Present:

Claire Strom, Jana Mathews, Susan Walsh, Nancy Decker, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Martina Vidovic, Pedro Bernal, Maria Ruiz, Wenxian Zhang, Faithe Galloway (student rep), Jennifer Nilson (student rep)

Visitors: Rich Morris, Robin Mateo, Sharon Lusk

A. Minutes

Minutes from 10/16/12 were approved.

B. Academic Calendars for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 - Approved

Claire will present the calendars to EC and let Robin know their decision.

C. Changing Graduation Credit Hours from 140 to 128 (5+1? reducing PE requirements?) - Tabled

Claire stated that if we approve 128 credit hours, this must be in conjunction with 5+1 faculty load. The 5+1 will mean any faculty member can teach 6 regular classes OR faculty can teach 4 regular classes + 1 class that requires extra effort in teaching (counts as 2 classes) per year. PSC is working on deciding what the +1 is, but this may include courses like RCC or honors that require additional time, energy and effort. PSC would be in charge of establishing the criteria and approving which courses fulfill the +1 since this is a faculty load issue. Nancy thought that collaborative blending learning (such as that with Hendrix College) and digital pedagogy should count as the +1. Given current demands, Claire stated that the only way we can afford to do 5+1 is if we drop to 128 credits. In terms of compensation, faculty are unlikely to receive extra money, but they will have a course release. This has been brought from EC (provost, deans). No service or admin functions fall within +1, and this is solely a teaching load issue. Claire does not advocate approving the 128 without making it contingent on the 5+1 because she feels we are likely to lose 7 faculty

lines by dropping the graduation requirement. The administration favors going to 128, but the 5+1 is difficult. Jenny asked if this would merely shrink the adjunct pool and use the savings to pay for 5+1. Wenxian wondered if we should wait until PSC has decided on the 5+1. Susan asked how we could teach enough gen ed courses and accommodate a 5+1. Regardless of 3+3 or 5+1, using the current design of the new general education system, each faculty member of expressive arts and science and mathematics will teach 1 or 2 neighborhood courses per year based purely on number of students that must take these courses. Claire said that the current estimates may not be a real reflection of numbers since there are some other divisions that teach fewer gen eds now. We also may re-define "division". For example, CMC offers courses that fulfill A's, but they are not in the expressive arts division. Sharon stated that if A&S goes to 128, Holt will do the same. Instead of promoting cost-savings, this would result in 3 fewer classes per year so Holt will lose money. Transfer students can bring in 64 credits but then must do 70 credits at Rollins so that at least half is required for graduation (excludes Holt). The last 9 courses must be in residence for Holt.

Jana asked how many faculty will take advantage of 5+1. Claire replied that it is unclear right now. Jana asked if there are there benefits to separating the 128 from the 5+1. Claire said currently, peer institutions are 128 and that tying the two together is strategic. Nancy said that reducing the credit load to 128 gives us the means to reduce faculty load. Jana thought that dropping to a 5+1 might mean that rather than adjuncts, faculty might teach necessary overloads. Claire said that PSC is hoping that you cannot bank these classes. Jenny said that adding another course on top of 5+1 would defeat the point. Nancy is worried about faculty who have instructor titles and are currently teaching a 4+4. Would they be included in the 5+1, or is this only for tenured and tenure-track faculty? Pedro believes that the science division will be unable to fit in 5+1 model with the number of courses that must be taught for the major and the lab requirement.

Claire asked if we should reduce PE requirements. Currently, we have a BPE (1 or 4 credit course), and most students take the 4-credit option to get a grade. Students are also required to take 2 PEA (1 credit) courses for CR or NC. Varsity sports count as a PEA per semester. Only 4 PEA credits count toward graduation. Claire summarized that the maximum credits to graduation are 8 (4 credit-BPE + 4 semesters of PEA or PEV). Claire asked if we should drop to one PEA requirement instead of 2. Rich stated that of the bureau of labor statistics top 5 projected jobs, 3 are health professions, including global health, predictive health, and nutrition. Health majors should include these courses. Students must study behavior modifications not just medicine. Each semester, there are over 200 students in BPE classes. All of these 12 sections are taught by adjuncts. There are 29 PEA courses running this semester. Because of the PE requirement, students get the opportunity to take these classes, and we shouldn't cut that. Claire stated that a reduction in requirements would not prevent students from taking these courses. Students are required to take 3 PE classes, yet they can graduate without other parts of a liberal arts education. Jennifer Nilson said that the workload for these classes is small. Jenny said honors students are excused from one PEA. Nancy argued that students come to FL to be physically active most of the time and that perhaps there should be a swimming requirement. Jana proposed that more credits could count for graduation, but the requirement could be reduced.

Rich detailed the history of the PE requirement. In 2004, Bob Carson chaired a health and wellness committee which reduced the activity courses from 3 to 2. In 2008, Tom Cook chaired a committee to maintain the current requirement. Nancy was worried that we have created a model where we require a classroom course but cannot staff it with our own faculty. Rich advocated that we need health education, but his department has lost faculty lines. Nancy wondered if students would still take this many PE courses with a reduction to 128 credits. Do we have evidence that students want to take it? Jenny asked Robin to query how many students are taking the class over the minimum requirements and separate out varsity sports. Claire stated that with the new gen ed, we are cutting courses from other requirements so it makes sense to cut PE as well. Rich said that he thinks PE will be a core course in future health majors. Claire suggested that is a different issue than the requirements for graduation. Maria suggested we wait until we have student data about the student interest in PE before making a decision. Rich asked if reductions in other departments went through AAC, and Claire replied that the A&S faculty voted on the gen ed system so that was already approved.

Jenny stated that any new policies (128 credits and 5+1) will have to be approved by the board of trustees in February. Claire is worried that we will have to negotiate the language to make the credit reduction dependent on faculty load since both committees must move independently and quickly on these issues to make the February deadline. Jana suggested separating out the PE component. Claire will communicate with PSC about the various issues regarding faculty load that have come up.

D. Next week's agenda

- 1) Approve minutes of last meeting
- 2) Self-Design Major—Tracy Murray (10/30)
- 3) 128 credit hours (10/30)
- 4) Double-dipping courses (11/6) CSS 134
- 5) General Education implementation--Anderson (11/13)
- 6) Transfer credits--Smither (11/27)
- 7) Anthro major/minor change--Newcomb (11/27)

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm by Claire Strom. The next general meeting will be at 12:30 pm October 30, 2012 in the MLS Classroom CSS 167.

Minutes submitted by

Susan Walsh

Approved by
