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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2014

Opening:

Claire Strom called to order the regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee at 12:34 pm on April 15, 2014 in CSS 167.

Present:

Claire Strom, Vidhu Aggarwal, Gloria Cook, Philip Deaver, Martina Vidovic, Pedro Bernal, Katia Chadaideh (student), Gabrielle Massé (student) Rachel Kasler (Holt Representative), Susan Walsh

Visitors: Jennifer Cavanaugh, Daphne Olsen, Jill Jones, Kasandra Riley, Anca Voicu

1) Credit/No Credit

Susan Walsh explained the problems associated with the current Late Credit/No Credit structure and proposed that AAC consider one of the three solutions from the following document:

Current wording on the CR/NC form

Students may exercise a one-time option of Late Credit/No Credit. In this option, students are permitted to declare a class Late Credit/No Credit up until the last scheduled day of classes, before the official exam period begins, for the term in which they are enrolled. This option is available for one course, and for one time only during a student's career at Rollins. Courses taken under this option may not be used to fulfill general education, major, minor, or concentration requirements. Courses with general education designations for which

the CR/NC option is elected will not earn general education designations. Courses for which students receive a 'CR' grade may not be repeated for letter grades. If a grade of 'C-' or better is earned, a mark of 'CR' and the appropriate number of semester hours are granted. If a grade below 'C-' is earned, the course is abandoned, or the course is withdrawn from after the penalty deadline, a mark of 'NC' is granted. In any case, the grade point average is not affected.

The problem:

In order to protect their major GPA, students utilize this option for courses within the major. A NC grade is the only way to repeat the course and therefore use it toward a required course within the major. Furthermore, since a NC will not *fulfill* major requirements, it is a valid option. In light of this wording, students who utilize this option for a course within the major MUST deliberately fail the course to receive a NC and retake it later for a grade.

We see this occur when premed students are trying to protect their GPA, and even if they are on a trajectory to pass the course with a C- or better, will not take a final exam to make sure that they can fail and that a C- (or higher) does not factor into their GPA. They then repeat the course the next time it is offered, sometimes taking up a valuable seat.

The solutions:

1a. Change the wording to read, "**Courses taken under this option may be repeated for letter grades.**" In this way, students can retake a course for which they receive a CR for a higher grade without having to fail the course. If the course is required for the major, the student may still repeat the course for a letter grade if the department will not accept CR grades for those courses. The CR will not impact their GPA.

1b. Remove this statement, “Courses taken under this option may not be used to fulfill general education, major, minor, or concentration requirements” and change the wording to read, “**Courses taken under this option may be repeated for letter grades.**” In this way, students can retake a course for which they receive a CR for a higher grade without having to fail the course. The CR will not impact their GPA, and like internship credits (which are used in many majors) will count toward fulfillment of the major, minor, or general education requirements.

2. Change the wording to read, “**Courses for which students receive either a NC or CR grade may not be repeated.**” In this way, it is in a student’s best interest to decide whether to continue to invest in the course or to abandon it. However, the inability to repeat the course means that a student must complete the coursework and have their major or minor GPA affected if they use this option for a course in their major or minor. If this is the only course that fulfills a particular major requirement, for example, a student must complete the course to the best of their ability, only repeating the course if they do, in fact, fail it. For general education requirements, students may be able to find enough diverse offerings, that this is unlikely to have much of an impact if they are unable to retake the exact same course.

Susan explained that under the current structure, students would deliberately fail a course in their major in order to retake it later to get a better grade. She further clarified that the second option would give them an opportunity to take another general education course if they fail their current one. The Committee went through the different options, and Jenny added that students can always file academic appeals if they feel they should be granted an exception to the policy.

AAC decided to recommend solution 2 to the general faculty.

2) Name Change to Women's Study

The WMS Steering Committee would like to change the name of their minor to "Sexuality, Women's, and Gender Studies."

Rachel Kasler (Holt Representative) questioned putting the word "Sexuality" in the title. Jill explained that this was a student-driven decision and that the name change will truly reflect the courses that are currently offered in the minor

AAC voted unanimously to approve the name change

3) AAC Election for 2014-2015

- Chair: Jill Jones
- Secretary: Members will rotate each month
- New Course Subcommittee: Jonathan Walz, Gloria Cook, Vidhu Aggarwal, Kasandra Riley
- Internationalization Committee: Philip Deaver, Martina Vidovic (through 2016), Vidhu Aggarwal
- Students Appeal Committee: Kasandra Riley and Emmanuel Kodzi

Claire concluded the meeting by thanking the members of their fine work. AAC members, in turn, applauded her leadership at the Committee this year

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM

Respectively submitted by

Gloria Cook

Approved by
