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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 2, 2006

Arts & Sciences Executive Committee

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Executive Committee Minutes: 11/2/06—unapproved

Members in Attendance: Wendy Brandon, Sharon Carnahan, Tom Cook, Lewis Duncan, Jim Eck, Hoyt Edge, Larry Eng-Wilmot, Cat McConnell, Lisa Tillmann

I. additional faculty meeting: Tom announced that, due to a request from Lee Lines and the search committee for the Dean of the Faculty, the A & S faculty may be called to a special meeting on November 30.

II. 10/5/6 EC minutes approved

III. delayed start to fall 2007 semester: Tom: AAC pointed out that, according to the bylaws, that committee should have formally considered the change to the calendar.

IV. hiring into programs: members of Classics faculty are less inclined to want to take advantage of the “hiring into program” option. This renders the issue less urgent. Tom: proposed leaving issue on table and moving onto other pressing business.

V. bylaws change to reflect FEC practices: Tom: expects this to pass without lengthy discussion.

VI. proposed revisions to CIE practices: Wendy: major issues are 1) discrepancies in response rate, 2) non-uniform faculty practices (e.g., use of rewards and/or punishments; single announcement to students v. multiple announcements), 3) non-uniform conditions for completing CIE, 4) lack of narrative data, 5) narrative data separated from quantitative data and therefore decontextualized, 6) concerns about how these shortcomings may impact tenure and promotion, 7) lack of education for FEC and CECs on what the newer data mean. PSC taskforce believes that Scantron format would address questions about reliability and validity of current CIE. Hoyt: regarding #5, we now have ability to show instructors individual responses with both narrative and quantitative data. Sharon: under old system, outlier responses looked like outliers; in this system, outliers are more difficult to identify. What if we implemented a two-step plan: this term, recommend ways to improve response rate; next term, move to Scantron? Wendy: that’s for faculty to decide; EC’s job is to determine whether proposal is ready for faculty consideration. Sharon: moves that EC send to faculty. Seconded. Approved.

VII: proposed revisions to honors program: Hoyt: in terms of urgency, the proposed changes (e.g., interdisciplinary courses) already are being implemented in the spring; moves that this be considered after the Critical Media and Cultural Studies proposal. Sharon: honors degree program should pass quickly. Lewis: I question whether faculty would quickly approve because reducing size of HP from 45 to 30 may affect the enrollment decision of 15 strong students.

VIII. proposed major in Critical Media and Cultural Studies: Sharon: proposal came to AAC at beginning of term; has gone through two extensive revisions and reviews. AAC believes this is the strongest curriculum in this area that can be implemented

beginning with current faculty resources. Lisa Tillmann would relocate to this new department. Film Studies would be housed in new department. Larry: are other faculty lines requested? Lisa: based on data from Macalester and Vassar, we expect the number of majors to grow to about 50. At that time, we will need the equivalent of three full-time faculty, including myself. We can, however, move this program forward next year with only my relocation. I will teach sections of the intro course; Roger has committed to teaching the theory course, and Martha Cheng will offer Visual Rhetoric. Lewis: what is the assumption about where the majors will come from: existing students or new students? Lisa: from both; we understand the resource implications of three faculty lines and other administrative costs. We can redistribute existing funds as majors shuffle; we can increase enrollment; we can raise funds through development. Hoyt: we do have funds for visiting lines now, so it's not correct that we would need all new funds. Lisa: I understand that this is a critically important issue, and that faculty will want to talk about it, but we haven't spent time discussing the merits of the proposal. Our students consume, by one estimate, 13.65 hours of mass media a day. They see 3000 advertisements a day; almost none of them reads a printed newspaper. They are not prepared to understand and participate in the cultural environment we live in. Lewis: moves that proposal be forwarded to faculty. Seconded. Approved.

IX: Rollins to move from early decision to early action: Lewis: follows national movement away from early decision; meant to level playing field for students across economic groups

X: Admissions to drop SAT requirement for some students: Lewis: require instead a portfolio of accomplishments; merit-based aid still will require SAT.

Decisions:

1. 10/5 EC minutes approved
2. proposed revisions to CIE practices: sent to faculty
3. Critical Media and Cultural Studies major proposal: sent to faculty