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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes (Feb. 17, 09)

In attendance: Wendy Brandon, Laurie Joyner, Jim Small, Steve St. John, Eric Zivot, Susan Lackman, Scott Rubarth, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Yusheng Yao, Alex Winfree, Alex Grammenos, Tocarra Mallard

Susan told members that RP pilot proposals were sent back to the faculty members with the comments for further revision and the deadline was March 16. Three out of the five proposals were in good shape.

Wendy e-mailed Mario to consider incorporating the sexual assault proposal for Fox Friday activity.

Minutes were passed with corrections.

Discussion about the proposal for African and African-American Studies Program. Members agreed that the proposal was much improved with clear goals and learning outcomes built-in and with the developmental sequence of primary, secondary and advanced courses. Even though it did not use a matrix, the proposal was close to such a format. Steve is working on behalf of AAC to develop such a matrix, which will be clear and easy to use for faculty members in making proposals for change in majors and minors.

Discussion about the proposal to put “CE” designation on community engagement courses in the course schedule. The questions members raised included: who is authorized to give the course designation? Mickey’s office (Office of Community Engagement) or an ad hoc committee led by faculty with expertise? Is CE merely a course designation to help students in identifying such courses or is it also a designation on the transcript? Is there an academic standard for such courses that should be identified by AAC? Laurie proposed to conceptualize a concise statement about “CE” to distinguish it as being the more academically orientated service learning as opposed to volunteering in the community, etc. Wendy suggested that AAC table the issue. She will make a draft with Laurie’s input and talk to Mickey to learn from her ideas about how to structure the approval process.

Discussion about the proposed changes to the English major and minor in the catalogue copy. The changes had already been approved by AAC. The changes in the catalogue copy were passed pending the approval of the new courses by the new course subcommittee.

Discussion about the proposed change by the Department of Communication—eliminating the Communication Theory course (COM 300) and teaching theoretical components in specific courses instead. AAC wanted clarification on two issues for this change: 1. evidences of theory teaching reflected in the specific courses; 2. qualification of those who teach these theories. Members considered the theory course an important one and asked: if the department wanted to reduce the workload for the major/minor, why

not reduce other courses rather than the one course on theory? Wendy will explain to the department AAC's concerns.

Susan's proposal on "incomplete" and Eric's proposal on suspension are tabled for later discussion.