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## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2009

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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## AAC Minutes (Mar. 19, 09)

In attendance: Wendy Brandon, Mark Anderson, Jim Small, Steve St. John, Susan Lackman, Scott Rubarth, Jennifer Cavenaugh, Yusheng Yao, Alex Grammenos, Alex Winfree

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Announcements: Steve: Now new course form can be found on the site of the Dean of Faculty.

Discussion of Graduation Hours: Wendy: AAC's graduation hour proposal will be submitted to the faculty at the last faculty meeting of this semester. Credits/hours will be reduced from 140 to 128. Autonomy will be allowed for departments to have more or fewer electives. Susan: how do you count? By credit hours or by courses? For most schools, one course equals 3 credit hours. Jim: if we count like that we will have 96 credit hours. Mark: the way we count is normal among our aspirant schools. ACS schools are different (they count one course as 3 credit hours). Different schools count credit hours differently for ten years. Susan: which way to count is better for educational purpose? We don't know. Wendy: what is the students' input? Winfree: most students like it (the reduction). But what are the reasons to reduce the graduate hours? Wendy: Because it is good for transfer students and the students having Bright Future scholarship—now their credits for IT and peer mentoring cannot be counted [or they will be charged tuition for extra credits]. Alex Grammenos told AAC that her parents had to pay for her seven credits/hours above the regular 15 credits in the Florida Pre-paid program.

Susan: how to convert 4 credits/hours and 3 credit/hours. Mark: that can be easily fixed [in computer system]. Wendy: AAC needs to craft a proposal to the faculty. We need to decide which issues are more important—transfer students? Bright Future scholarship students? Work load? Scott: we don't want to do both (reduce the credit/hours and reduce credits to each course) at the same time. We should follow our aspirant schools (i.e., to keep the 4 credit/hours course calculation). AAC identified other related issues: 1. too many course releases; 2. Under-enrolled classes (they may be combined, offered every other year). AAC cannot legislate workload; administration can (reduce it to 3:2 workload). Jim: it is a myth that if we reduce the credit/hours to 128, we can have 3:2 workload. Scott: we should keep it simple and separate different issues [in AAC proposal]: first step to reduce to 128 credit/hours; second step to deal with the conversion of transfer credits; third step to search for strategies to reduce workload from 6 to 5. Mark: the Dean said the current curriculum of 144 credits was unsustainable, because of [too many] course releases. Now we had 3 PE courses with credits. After credit/hours reduction PE courses may not need credits and PE department are OK with it.

Discussion on Classics Program and Curriculum. Scott reminded AAC members that Classics Studies voluntarily suspended the program. The curriculum change needs not be submitted to the faculty; it only needs AAC approval. We suspended the program because of the staff change last year. The program had been run successfully for 11 years. We had about 12-15 majors. We have very high major/faculty ratio-higher than most

peer institutions. We have had successful graduates, one of whom has recently been accepted by both Princeton and Stanford. Administration gave 1.3 faculty line and we offered 8-10 courses a year. But it was not sustainable. This ratio was low compared with our aspirant schools (see the comparison in the long report, on page 12). We cannot cover 13 courses by 1.3 faculty. I had met with Laurie and outside consultant team. We made two modifications: First, to have 10 courses for major (2 core courses, 3 electives, 4 language courses or more electives, and one capstone) and 7 courses for minor; Second we now require two core courses. These two core courses were created by merging the existing history and literature courses into one culture course (one for the Greece, one for Rome). This produces a sustainable model with 1.3 faculty. We have agreed to give up teaching Greece for the time being and focus on building Latin program. Capstone seminar cannot be offered for a couple of years, therefore we offer alternative capstone experiences such as semi or thesis and travel abroad. Jim: 1.3 faculty is not good to thrive. We need a classics department. We need a long term commitment from administration. Mark: We cannot increase faculty line in 2 years because of economic situation. Is the modified curriculum viable without teaching overload? Scott: viable if get rid of Greek. And I have to retreat from other commitments. Courses contributing to the Classics curriculum from other departments can help but most of these courses (on page 10 of the report) have fallen away. We need an alternative strategy in hiring. For example, English Department hires a Medievalist or History hires someone to teach ancient history. Economics and Politics can do the same. We even utilize a course on ancient music. Laurie is interested in doing this. It can be difficult to get other departments to commit. Wendy: we need faculty to vote to reinstate the program. I'll take it to the Executive Committee. Then to the next faculty meeting. AAC voted to support the reinstatement of the new curriculum.

Wendy: Sharon sent me a request to phase out Latin American Cultural Studies program. Jim: we need to talk to other people teaching Latin America [besides Dexter] about it, making it a regular process: first to Executive Committee, then to AAC, and then send it to the faculty.

The meeting was adjourned.