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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes (Sept. 16)

Attendance: Wendy Brandon, Laurie Joyner, James Small, Scott Rubarth, Steve St. John, Eric Zivot, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Susan Lackman, Yusheng Yao, Alex Winfree

AAC invited Tom Cook and Carol Lauer from Curriculum Review and Renew Committee to answer questions regarding the pilot program for Rollins Plan.

Committee members asked many questions. They included but not limited to the following: What is the relationship between RP and minors? Are students ready to make the commitment to one RP theme in the first year? Is it necessary to have one or two core courses such as world history and geography? How many years of commitment should the faculty teaching RP courses make? Are they sustainable for the small departments? How to make sure equitable distribution of students in the RP themed courses? What pilots are to be chosen? How should the credits of the RP be counted if faculty decide not to continue the experiment in two years?

CRRC representatives and AAC members had figured out answers to most of the questions. It was generally agreed that questions that could not be answered at this time and the new questions that will crop up during the experiment could be dealt with in the process. The most important thing was to start the pilot rather than continue discussion.

Laurie expressed that the Dean and the Provost were totally committed to the RP experiment financially.

The committee members passed Wendy Brandon's proposal that CRRC send through email a primary draft of the Rollins Plan to AAC members no later than Thursday (Sept. 18) for consideration of approval. Once it was approved, Wendy would bring it to the Executive Committee, which would decide by vote to enable the proposal. Then the proposal would be brought to the faculty meeting on Sept 23 for discussion and approval.

AAC suggested that the primary draft should have a structured RP and the timeline of its execution. During the experiment, CRRC would regularly report to the faculty about the development of the experiment. An external evaluator would be invited at the proper moment to assess the pilot. In two years faculty would revisit the pilot program and make decisions as to modify, formally launch or drop the RP.

Members agreed that AAC recommend that faculty approve the CRRC's proposal to start the pilot in the fall of 2009.

On Thursday afternoon AAC members received the following resolution from its Chair:

Resolution:

On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, I move the Faculty endorse the pilot "Rollins Plan" General Education Curriculum beginning Fall Semester 2009 with the following provisions:

Implementation of the pilot General Education Curriculum comprised of 2 Rollins Plans designed by Faculty

- AAC will issue a call for Rollins Plan (RP) proposals from interested faculty
- The RP proposals must adhere to the new General Education “Learning Outcomes” Curriculum and RP guidelines developed by the Curriculum Renewal and Revision Committee (CRRC)
- The AAC will approve the implementation of the Rollins Plan proposals as a pilot General Education Curriculum for Fall 2009
- The pilot Curriculum will be offered to 80 students for 2 years in lieu of the current general education graduation requirements

Trial Period and Evaluation of Rollins Plan General Education Curriculum

- An external reviewer will be invited to review the pilot Curriculum and report to the AAC and the Faculty
- The AAC will report to the Faculty on the status of the pilot Curriculum Spring 2010, Spring 2011, and Fall 2011
- During the Fall 2011 semester, the Faculty will vote to stop, expand, modify, and/or continue the pilot Curriculum