

10-7-2008

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 7, 2008" (2008). *Academic Affairs Committee Minutes*. Paper 117.
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AAC Minutes (Oct., 7, 08)

In attendance: Wendy Brandon, Laurie Joyner, Debra Wellman, James Small, Eric Zivot, Scott Rubarth, Steve St. John, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Susan Lackman, Yusheng Yao, Alex Grammeros, Tocarra Mallard, Cory Eylmann

Oct. 3 minutes approved with revisions on the wording for the decision on Asian Studies Major proposal.

Jim Small reported on the activities of the New Course and General Education Subcommittee and requested guidance on an issue that had arisen in regard to a request to add additional general education credit (P/N) to a section of the Honors 201 course taught by Tom Cook and Elton Graugnard. Committee members questioned whether this was possible considering the catalog statement that “The Honors Degree Supervisory Board will designate each seminar as fulfilling one or more of the three distribution requirements: Arts and Humanities (AH), Social Sciences (SS), and Natural Sciences (NS).” Courses that fulfill the R, C, V, F, Q, and either P or O (with N) are taken in addition to the honors course. The addition of the P/N general education requirement would mean that the student in this section would not need to take an additional science course as would be required of other honors students. Such a result might be considered “double dipping.” Several suggested that the P/N should be allowed but that students in this section be required to take an “O” in addition. The decision was to leave it as it was and to inform the Honor Program Committee of the problem and ask it to fix it.

Art History major and minor revision. Revision regarding the minor (reduction of required courses from 8 to 6 and more flexibility to help students studying abroad) has been approved. Concern was raised about the capstone course staffing issue. Should the existing faculty be able to teach this course now that the new hiring has not been approved? The decision was to table it, asking Art History to clarify the staffing issue.

Decision to defer the passage for the proposal on the new minor designation “Africa and African-American Studies Project.” The suggestion was made to the faculty member who made the proposal to fill in minor map to clarify the core courses and electives and levels of the courses.

English Department’s proposal of revisions for its minor has been passed.

Discussions about the proposed changes for the major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The proposal (reduction and streamline of required courses) had been passed.

Laurie Joyner asked how to give easy access to the FEC to the qualitative comments on teaching for those faculty under tenure review. Jennifer Cavanaugh suggested using the blackboard with access code to solve the problem of confidentiality.

Laurie Joyner told the members that the RP final draft by CRRC would be sent to faculty by the end of the week.