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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes (Oct. 28)

In attendance: Wendy Brandon, Debra Wellman, Jim Small, Eric Zivot, Steve St. John, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Yusheng Yao, Alex Winfree, Alex Grammenos, Tocarra Mallard, Kory Eylmann, Scott Rubarth

- A. Discussion about the revised proposal of African/African-American Transnational Experience (Minor). Questions are raised about the flexibility and choices if the six courses offered are set. What if instructors of these courses are on sabbatical? What if other faculty members offer a course on the same theme? Can it be accepted as part of the curriculum? There was also a suggestion that the original title—African-American Studies—was better than the current one—African/African-American Transnational Experience. The decision was made to invite Dr. Chambliss to talk about the proposal with the committee.
- B. Discussion about the recent changes in the composition of the Curriculum Review and Renew Committee. AAC agreed with the CRRC that their work for the RP at this stage was successfully completed. The next step was to form a new RP Review Committee to review and assess the RP pilots. AAC passed the motion about the composition of the new RP Review Committee, which will include 4 AAC appointed members, 4 elected members (one from each division), and two AAC appointed student members, who were elected into AAC by the student government.
- C. Discussion about AAC's charge regarding the work to redefine the Holt School. Wendy Brandon reported both Sharon Carrier's and the Executive Committee's somewhat different understandings about the redefinition of the Holt School and AAC's role in it. Members decided that AAC's charge about the Holt School's governance was, according to the bylaws, primarily the oversight of its academic programs and curriculum. On behalf of the AAC, Wendy will email Sharon Carrier a list of questions of our primary concern regarding academic procedure and process. In particular: 1. How are its new courses, majors, programs proposed and approved; 2. How are its adjunct professors hired and what is the percentage of the adjunct professors and regular A&S professors?