

2-14-2008

## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 14, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC minutes 2/14/08

In attendance: Sharon Carnahan, Thom Moore, Laurie Joyner, Yusheng Yao, Scott Rubarth, Shannon Mariotti, Jenny Cavanaugh, Tina Bucci, Kristen Trucco, Allison Wallrapp

I. Proposal concerning courses taught for academic credit:

Update: The executive committee reviewed the proposed changes and said they should not be considered changes to the bylaws, but just changes to academic policy. But Thom Moore, with the support of AAC, does want these changes to go before the entire faculty and they will at the next faculty meeting.

LJ: These changes have the support of the Dean's office.

SC: When we present this to the full faculty, should we also give them a second sheet addressing all the concerns and issues that have been raised?

JC: Yes, definitely, this would be useful. Can someone present the issues we've discussed at AAC?

TM: Yes.

II. Physics Changes to the Major

JC: We've earlier decided that new course proposals that seem to overlap or double with certain departments should have to get approval from both department chairs.

TM: I want to emphasize that we should separate the issue of who is going to teach the courses (Math? Physics?) from the issue of getting the changes to the curriculum. No new faculty is required to make the changes; we can do it using existing resources.

SR: Should these kinds of changes to the curriculum take place in an isolated way in a department without taking into account the divisional needs?

TM: This is a concern AAC need to address in the future.

LJ: We need to think about divisional needs.

SR: Developing greater inter-disciplinarity needs to begin with broader input into hiring processes.

TM: Math doesn't want to teach the courses Physics needs because this was what Math was doing 100 years ago. Physics still needs these courses, but it's not what Math is doing today.

Further discussion:

SC: I don't like the idea that this further atomizes Math, Physics, and Computer Science, but it also seems like a necessary change.

SR: It is good that it is a course reduction; this takes us in direction we want to go in.

SR: I move that it be accepted with comments in the minutes.

AAC: Approved: AAC also recommends that the Science division continue to explore ways to make their courses more interdisciplinary.

III. New Course Sub-committee:

- is meeting on Monday at 8am, in the Warden dining room.

IV. Curriculum Committee:

Tuesday at 3pm on 2/19: at least 5 or so people can attend. The meeting will take place in the Bib Lab.

V. AAC composition:

Names of the people cycling off:

Shannon Mariotti  
Thom Moore  
Ben Balak  
Sharon Carnahan

Names of the people who are staying:

Scott Rubarth  
Eric Zivot  
Jenny Cavanaugh  
Yusheng Yao

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LJ: The Faculty Rental Housing Program; Because of time-crunch, LJ will consult with Finance and Service on this program, and maybe also talk with PSC. Who will be eligible, what are the criteria?