

3-6-2008

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 6, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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3/6/08 AAC minutes

In attendance: Thom Moore, Shannon Mariotti, Ben Balak, Tina Bucci, Kristin Trucco, Yusheng Yao, Jenny Cavanaugh, Laurie Joyner, Allison Wallrapp, Christina Grass, Scott Rubarth

Guest: Barry Levis

Minutes from last meeting: approved

Alison Wallrapp: we appreciate the leadership that Alison showed in correcting some misinformation on the part of the credit/no credit courses

TM: would like AAC to ask the executive committee what role standing committees have in the Holt school? Are we responsible for Holt, or not?

New course subcommittee: outstanding issues with ENV studies.

LJ: Shouldn't the new course subcommittee be reporting back to the full AAC committee, on their findings? These new course approvals seem relevant to curricular reform.

SR: Should new courses be taught as a 205 or 305 before a new course proposal is submitted?

JC: Next meeting, new course subcommittee will provide a list of new courses that have been approved.

New Business: Revising the Honors Degree Program

BL: Students have a lot of anxiety over the Honors project AND there is a disconnect between first part of program, which is interdisciplinary and the second part of the program, which is focused in a specific discipline. So, the Honors program wants to make some changes to address these problems.

BL: No cost to the college in terms of faculty resources to make these changes.

LJ: This proposal needs to be brought to the Dept. chairs.

TB: Are students going to be motivated by these changes?

JC: The Honors liason in the departments will have more oversight over the students in their dept. who are doing honors projects.

BL: It's better to have someone in the dept. who is mentoring the student as they do this project, to guide them from the perspective of their own discipline. The liason will help lay out the steps for the students, guide them from the perspective of the requirements of their own dept.

AW: How would this work? When would it take effect?

BL: I would like to give the current freshman a choice to do the revised honors program.

JC: There are students now who do honors in the major, but are not in the Honors program and that will continue without change.

BL: We can take this to the dept. chairs, but I would hope we could take it to the full faculty by the end of the year.

LJ: I will ask Toni to look at this proposal very carefully in terms of resource to make sure it doesn't add resource allocations; because the pie is only so big and we keep adding stuff without taking things away.

TM: I move that we pass the honors motion as proposed with the stipulation that it be brought before the dept. chairs and then before the full faculty.

Motion approved by a majority.

AW: Why don't we recognize Easter in the calendar? Who approves the calendar?

LJ: Office of Student Records and then all around to other offices in the college.

SR: Professors are likely to excuse these absences on an individual basis.