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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 8, 2007

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC minutes 11/8

Ben Balak, Eric, Zivot, Scott Rubarth, Shannon Mariotti, Yusheng Yao, Laurie Joyner, Thom Moore, Jenny Cavanaugh, Sharon Carnahan, Tina Bucci, Kristen Trucco, Alison Wallrapp

Karen Hater came to talk about academic advising; Mae Fitchett also came to the meeting.

Karen Hater asks for faculty feedback on advising:

BB: IT for advising system is best part of Rollins website; information sharing

SR: Need for link between student records and TJ's

LJ: Need for a visual schematic of what courses students have fulfilled: a kind of interactive major map would be very useful to students and to advisors.

LJ: faculty involvement in marketing

Issues raised:

Difficult to find information on-line about student's courses

Why does the senior audit only happen senior year?

Problems in passing along student's files to new advisor?

Need to maintain old major maps; how to manage which students are fulfilling requirements for which version of the curriculum? How to manage grandfathering some students into old curriculum, allowing other students to use new curriculum?

Is this a breach of contract with students to change the curriculum mid-stream?

Problem of arbitrariness in advising has created a lot of academic appeals. Systematic differential treatment of students across departments.

KH: Problem with faculty training on advising, teaching faculty how to advise students, teaching students about our policies, how to use the advising system. Part of a larger issue: advising is not a high priority to faculty because we have no tangible and meaningful reward system: advising has no place in the tenure evaluation process. We also have a huge equity problem: some faculty have a lot of advisees, other faculty have few. And then when faculty go up for tenure, if they have put a huge amount of time and effort into advising, it is not rewarded. Advising is the root of a lot of other problems that exist at Rollins.

JC: Maybe people who are good at advising should be allowed to take on more advising responsibility, and be compensated for it and rewarded for it. Differential advising roles for people and differential compensation?

MF: all faculty advise, formally or informally, and all faculty should have training in advising. It should be more valued across the campus and rewarded in the tenure process; it is placed under teaching.

SC: Rosanna Diaz-Zambrano has resigned from the curriculum task-force. How do we want to replace her? How can we represent her constituency, representing junior faculty?

We voted for Phil Kozel as her replacement.

Composition of new course approval and general education approval:

Scott Rubarth

Jenny Cavanaugh

Ben Balak (chair)