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## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 2006

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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## Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes January 19, 2006

In Attendance: Richard Lima, Jay Yellen, Carolyn Carpan, Dana Hargrove, Roger Casey, Eric Zivot, [Mark Anderson](#), and SGA representatives Carly Rothman, Nick Tanturri, and Eddie Mehnert.

### 1. Old Business

- a. Jay Yellen presented a report on the state of the Q requirement. Changes suggested include:
  - 1) Requiring all incoming freshmen to take a mathematics/statistics diagnostic/placement test;
  - 2) Offering fewer sections of MAT 103 and replacing them with higher-level statistics courses;
  - 3) Designing a test by which a student can test out of the Q requirement.
  - 4) Replacing the current goals with goals that would allow courses like calculus or discrete math to satisfy the requirement; and
  - 5) Rethinking the quantitative/mathematical requirement entirely.

Jay reported the review has been logged in a database with Jim Eck, Assistant Provost. Mark Anderson noted that any changes to the Q requirement would be considered when the curriculum is reviewed next year.

- b. Mark Anderson handed out the email response from Eileen Gregory to AAC's decision about the proposed changes to the Biology curriculum. While the Biology Department is happy AAC approved adding BIO 344 Journal Club to the core requirements, the department still wants to raise the number of course hours required for the degree. Eileen suggested a change from 60 to 62, rather than 64 as previously proposed and rejected by AAC. The committee still does not understand why the Biology Department wants to raise the number of course hours. Roger Casey suggested tabling this issue until the committee can review registration numbers from this semester to see if enrollment justifies this change. The issue was tabled.

### 2. Continuing Business

Jay Yellen presented a proposal for "Changes to the Process for Approving General Education Courses." The proposal suggests blanket approval of certain course numbers if:

- The department provides a generic course description with specific objectives and means of assessment delineated that shows that the goals for that letter are satisfied; and

- The department agrees that all sections offered under that course number would satisfy the generic course descriptions.

The proposal also states, “In certain instances, the AAC will approve a cluster of courses in a given department for a blanket letter designation for a general education requirement if the department provides a generic description that fits all the course numbers in the cluster and shows that the goals for the letter are satisfied.”

The committee accepted this proposal. Mark Anderson will notify the faculty of this decision at the next faculty meeting.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 8 am in the Warden dining room.

Carolyn Carpan,  
Secretary