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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, August 25, 2005

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2005

In Attendance: Richard Lima, Marie Shafe, Dana Hargrove, Jay Yellen, Carolyn Carpan, Greg Gardner, Roger Casey, Mark Anderson, and Eric Zivot.

1. We discussed the roles of committee members. Roles are as follows:

Chair: Mark Anderson
Secretary: Carolyn Carpan

New Course Subcommittee
Greg Gardner – Subcommittee Chair
Marie Shafe
Jay Yellen

Academic Appeals:
Dana Hargrove
Richard Lima
Eric Zivot

2. Old Business

Mark reminded us that the Health and Wellness proposal was sent before Academic Affairs last year. The faculty voted to approve a 1-hour health and wellness credit. The proposal for a 4 credit, required course in first or second year is still under discussion. We are waiting for the new Athletic Director to be appointed before proceeding.

3. New Business

- a) Socky O'Sullivan, Chair of the English Department, informed AAC that the English Department faculty voted to change their curriculum. Socky wrote in an email to the chair, "We have had a restriction on the three or four electives that majors can take – only one can be a writing course. We voted to remove that restriction so that students will be able to take any ENG prefix courses, one of which must be 300 or higher." We voted to accept this change to the English curriculum.
- b) Roger Casey, Dean of the Faculty told us the administration would like to propose changes to the academic probation process. He wanted to inform us about the proposed changes to see what the committee thought about it. We currently have two kinds of probation – 1) regulation probation for students with a GPA under 2.0 in one semester (for first-year students during first-term they are in good standing with a GPA of 1.83) and 2) special academic probation for students who are on probation for two semesters in a row and are subject to dismissal. The administration would like to expand the role of the special academic probation program. Roger

suggested that any student who falls below a 2.0 cumulative GPA would go on special probation right away, rather than waiting another semester. This would enable Mae Fitchett, who runs the special probation program at TJ's, to give students who need help sooner with the program. We agreed to look at a formal proposal when the Roger is ready to present it.

- c) We talked about issues to be discussed at future meetings this year, including the Communication, Media, and Culture major proposal and a review of the Q, V, and D general education requirements. We spent a lot of time discussing the review of Q and decided we should form a task force to look at this requirement. Jay Yellen and Mark Anderson, both members of the Mathematics Department, are concerned about the narrow definition of the Q and the fact that no department is responsible for this requirement. A task force would review the definition of the Q, determine if we are teaching what we say we are teaching, and examine if we should be teaching the Q requirement differently. Jay Yellen offered to head the task force and to think about names for possible task force members. Marie Shafe wants to lead the V review. We agreed to continue discussions about the reviews of Q, V, and D at the next meeting

The meeting was adjourned.

The next AAC meeting will be on Thursday, September 1 at 8 am in the Warden dining room.