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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, October 20, 2005

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
October 20th, 2005

In attendance: [Mark Anderson](#), Richard Lima, Dana Hargrove, Jay Yellen, Roger Casey, Erik Zivot, Greg Gardner, and SGA representative Carly Rothman.

1. Old Business

- a. The minutes of Sept 15th were approved.
- b. Q and V General Education requirement assessment update so far- Marie was not present to discuss V. Jay discussed process of Q evaluation. He commented on difficulty to navigate assessment matrix. Roger suggested talking to Jim Eck, Assistant Provost for Research to help with this difficulty, also to find and look at printed versions that he may have from SACS review last year. Jay wanted to know his objective for this research. Mark answered with (something like) – our aim is to find the assessment for the Q requirement and other pertaining information, then to make up an evaluation report. Roger used Carol Lauer's method as a good example for this research for evaluation where she held lunch meetings with Gen Ed Instructors then wrote up a report from those discussions. Jay will now look to conducting a similar style for his research of Q requirement (with lunch coupons provided by Dean of Faculty)

2. New Business.

- a. We looked at the Self-Designed Major Proposal from student Therese Swope. Title of proposed Major- "Rural Sustainable Development" involving the departments Anthropology, Economics, and Environmental Studies.

After short discussion on how well conceived this proposal was and how it met all the requirements, we unanimously voted on its go ahead for signature by the Dean of Faculty. This is the only self-designed major proposal so far this Fall Semester.

- b. Environmental Studies Major proposal for changes. We discussed proposal and had many questions. Lee Lines will be attending the next meeting November 3rd to answer these questions and also any others we have. Discussion-

There was a worry for the sustainability of this larger major at this current time. It was also noted that it was unclear if the electives from the current major would still be available for the new major. The amount of electives necessary was also a concern since it locks in faculty and students to those courses and limits other opportunities.

Roger noted how they are trying to enlarge their numbers of majors, currently at 25 majors it used to be more than double this before.

Questions we have to ask so far for November 3rd meeting:

1. Greg. How did/does the Holt Major and the Arts and Sciences Major compare?
2. Jay. Do students have as many options outside of major as they used to?
3. Mark. Why have they increased size of major? Number of courses is more.
4. Erik. Is the change a response to a change in what graduate schools are expecting from applicants?

3. Continuing Business.

General Education. Curriculum rethinking.

Discussion- Mark noted how faculty are very interested in discussing the curriculum. This year's plan for the AAC is to discuss curriculum and next year to have a full conversation to institute change. Mark asked for ideas in how to plan this.

Erik said to start with faculty input, to ask what is wrong with the curriculum as it is now. To make a list to find commonalities. Mark- Does the faculty believe in the curriculum? Not only Geneds.

Roger shared his lessons learned from success and failure from other schools. Failure was not having a transparent process for review and proposals. Never go to faculty with one option only. Roger says we do not have a sustainable curriculum. Jay asked if this was clear-cut enough to convince faculty and achieve momentum for change.

Roger presented data that Toni is still collecting that shows 10% of students rely on another college to fulfill Gened requirements. Data also shows 1% of the total of courses taken are taken elsewhere. The sustainability is also evident in the fact that faculty have no/little time to teach other courses than the ones they already do.

Everything is open to change. We should flood faculty with options and ideas then have a colloquia. Committees? Or other methods for discussion among faculty?

Perhaps Powerpoint presentations during Faculty meetings that highlight other schools curriculum. By December we want to have a feeling for change among faculty and students. Roger says anything we can do to stop debate polarizing too early is a good thing.

Recap Mark-

Identify Learning outcomes we want

Look at skills needed for 21st Century

Get faculty engaged and excited for change.

Declare next year for 'curriculum change year' and start the process.

Student rep, Carly, offered to poll students through SGA

The meeting was adjourned after a good discussion that created excitement for change.
Next meeting on November 3rd in Warden Dining room 8 am as usual.

Minutes- Dana Hargrove.