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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 3, 2005

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2005

In Attendance: Richard Lima, Marie Shafe, Dana Hargrove, Jay Yellen, Carolyn Carpan, Greg Gardner, Roger Casey, Eric Zivot, Lee Lines, [Mark Anderson](#), and SGA representatives Nick Tanturri and Carly Rothman.

1. Old Business

- a) The minutes of the October 20, 2005 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
- b) Lee Lines, who is Chair of the Environmental Studies Department, came to the meeting to answer questions about the Environmental Studies Major proposal that was discussed at our last meeting. Lee explained that several years ago the program was cut from 16 courses to 11 courses and the science component was cut from the program. The department wants to have 12 courses and change the Natural Systems Track to the Landscape Ecology and Environmental Planning Track to bring back the science components and to utilize the expertise of the faculty teaching in the program. Lee answered questions from the committee:
 - How can department teach the new curriculum if a faculty member left? Lee conceded that might be a problem.
 - Does the proposed program meet the needs of students? Lee responded yes.
 - Where do infused R and T come into program? R is in ENV 389 Environmental Planning, T is in ENV 413 Senior Seminar
 - Will new major attract more students? Hope to attract a few more students, go from 25 to 30 majors
 - Why go from 11 to 12 courses in major? Lee explained they need 12 courses for the coherence of the two tracks in the program. Roger Casey suggested 12 courses could prohibit students from taking other electives. Lee said they encourage students to take electives outside the major, so they would prefer to have a 12 course major.

After Lee Lines left the meeting, the committee discussed the proposal. After a lengthy discussion about 11 versus 12 courses in the major and the issue of electives outside the major, we voted to accept the proposal of 12 courses in the major, with the revision that at least 1 elective has to be outside of Environmental Studies. Mark Anderson will report to Lee Lines the decision of the committee.

- c) Assessment of V and Q – Marie Shafe reported that she wants to gather information from V professors, while Jay Yellen reported that he wants to call a meeting of the Q instructors before the end of the semester to do a summary evaluation of the Q requirement.
2. New Business
- a) Carly Rothman, Student Government Representative, asked for feedback on a proposal that will soon be going to Student Government Senate about requiring faculty to post all grades throughout the semester on BlackBoard. Would faculty support this proposal? The committee said no, the faculty would not support it, even though some members of the committee thought it was a good idea.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next AAC meeting will be on Thursday, November 17 at 8 am in the Warden dining room.

Carolyn Carpan,
Secretary