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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 17, 2005

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes November 17, 2005

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

1. Old Business

- a) The minutes of the November 3, 2005 meeting were approved.
- b) The Environmental Studies Department resubmitted their proposal, including AAC's recommendation regarding electives: "At least one (1) approved elective from outside the ENV prefix." The committee is satisfied with this change.
- c) Nick Tanturri informed us that the Student Government Association Senate has continued to discuss a resolution demanding that professors put grades on Blackboard throughout the semester so students can track their progress in the course. We had a lengthy discussion with the students and it became clear that students want to track their grades through the semester, especially in time to meet Add/Drop deadlines, and they are suggesting Blackboard is the solution. We have asked SGA to define the problem for us more clearly, and while they may also recommend possible solutions, AAC may not agree with their solutions. We would like to better understand the problem in order to help find a solution.
- d) Update on the review of Q and V requirements - Jay Yellen is holding a meeting of professors teaching the Q courses on November 29. Marie Shafe is organizing a meeting to discuss V.

2. New Business

- a) SACS has recommended we eliminate the European Studies Major, citing lack of educational outcomes and lack of assessment evidence. The faculty must vote on this recommendation this semester, so we voted to bring this issue to the next faculty meeting. Note: The Foreign Languages has a lengthy outline for a self-designed major focusing on European Studies that will still be available to students.
- b) We reviewed a proposal from the Biology Department for changes to the requirements for the major. A short outline of these changes follows:

The Biology Department is proposing the following changes to the biology major:

1. From "Twelve (12) courses totaling at least 60 semester hours are required: six (6) core biology courses...." to "Thirteen (13) courses totaling at least 64 semester hours are required: seven (7) core biology courses....."
2. Addition of BIO 344 Journal Club to the core requirements,

3. Changing the biology electives from “Two (2) courses (totaling at least 8 semester hours).” to “Ten (10) semester hours.”

We also propose the following change to the biology minor:

1. From “Eight (8) courses are required: four (4) core biology courses...” to Nine (9) courses are required: five (5) core biology courses...”
2. Addition of BIO 344 Journal Club to the core requirements. The attached Minor Map reflects these proposed changes.

We discussed the proposal at length. Roger Casey supports the addition of BIO 344 Journal Club, but he is against adding more course hours, which will be necessary if this proposal is accepted. Roger argued we would have to add more faculty and there would be more expenses for labs, and in his opinion, this is not sustainable. We decided we want to meet with a representative from the department, hopefully at our December 1 meeting, to get answers to following questions:

- Can reading primary literature be included in current classes?
- How can you sustain curriculum without adding more faculty?
- Is another lab course necessary for students who want to go to grad school?
- How are students encouraged to study beyond the sciences?
- Would this further discourage students from going abroad?
- What is the plan for helping students study abroad?
- Will this make it more difficult for students to take courses outside the major?

Roger will also bring data about the department to review during the discussion at our next meeting.

3. In preparation for our discussion about a review of the curriculum, Roger Casey presented us with data from an ACS study of the 40 top liberal arts schools (U.S. News 2005 Top 40 Colleges) regarding class weeks, class days, contact hours, credits/course unites, standard credits, how lab science courses are treated, course load per term and faculty teaching load. When we compare the data from other schools to Rollins, Roger reported several issues arise:
 - How many hours required for graduation? Our current 140 hours is very high. An ideal is 4 courses / 4 credits each per semester; 32 courses for graduation; and 128 course hours for graduation.
 - How is course load calculated in the sciences? Roger believes faculty teaching load needs to be divorced from student hours
 - Labs could be 3 hours long, rather than the current 4 hours, with no additional credit for students; and with faculty compensation

Marie Shafe introduced the committee to the Appreciative Inquiry Model, with the suggestion that we use this model to examine the General Education requirements. The Appreciative Inquiry model focuses on the strengths of individuals within an organization and then uses those strengths to bring about positive change. We agreed to continue to discuss at our next meeting: how to introduce a review of the Rollins College Curriculum to the faculty, how to frame the questions, how to include everyone in the conversation, etc.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 1 from 8-10 am in the Warden dining room.

Carolyn Carpan,
Secretary