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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Meeting Minutes
Sept 23rd, 12:35-1:50 PM

Gloria Cook, Holly Pohlig, Kasandra Riley (secretary), Emmanuel Kodzi, Jonathan Walz, Greg Cavanaugh, Chris McManus, Phil Deaver, Jill Jones, and students Mariam Tabrez Lexi Tomkunas, and Philip Denizaid were the AAC members present.

Jenny Cavanaugh, Michelle Boulanger, Ilan Alon, Tom Lairson, Robin Mateo, Giselda Beaudin, Laura Pfister, Richard Lewin, and Elise Ablin (visiting student) were also present.

1. Jill asked to approve minutes from 9.2.14 (Motion: J. Walz, 2nd by Student)
Unanimously approved.
2. Subcommittee reports? none
3. Old business? none
4. New business
 - a. Proposal to change in rFLA policy (as a one-time exception) to accommodate certain dual-degree students (see two email attachments). Giselda: dual degree (German) students affected during transition to new gened curriculum; normally students will complete rFLA here in the first two years, but before rFLA is fully functional, there are not sufficient upper-level rFLA offerings for the current cohort of students (numbering 6-10). Giselda/Claire recommended and proposed that this cohort of students could be grandfathered in under old-gened system as a one-time exception.
Friendly amendment: that this change is only valid for the 2016 student cohort.
(Motion: Greg, 2nd Emmanuel, unanimous approval of exception)
Discussions raised:
 - what happens if students drop out of the dual-degree program? (the plan is to have the students quickly take remaining old-system gened courses while still available)
 - will this cohort of students feel like they are not part of a group?
 - b. J. Cavanaugh presented a proposal to approve a form (email attachment to AAC) to renew an rFLA course, which will be built into an online form that will then head to the neighborhood mayors for approval. These courses will have been already approved by AAC, but the mayors will have to approve a course to be taught again.
 - What is the need for this form? If significant changes are being made, it needs to go through AAC. If major changes aren't being made, why does this need to be approved unilaterally by a major?
 - Jenny/Gloria indicated that this is more of an assessment internal to rFLA to assess fit of a course to a neighborhood
 - What are the broad criteria to determine whether a course should be re-taught?

(Motion: J. Walz moves that the director of the new gened program sit on the new course subcommittee in an advisory position. 2nd by Greg C. Unanimous approval)

(Motion: J. Walz moves to approve the provided form. 2nd by Gloria. Unanimous approval)

- c. J. Cavanaugh: Revised policy regarding no-credit for PEA policy. Concern was raised (last year) that 6 credits out of the new 128-credit standard would be coming from PE credits. An old proposal provided that the new gened program students will be expected to meet a health and wellness competency (H&W course plus two PEA courses), as currently, but PEA courses would no longer carry one credit each (this was passed last year). Issue: how do we handle the transitional cohort, where some students will want credit and others cannot have it? Proposal: in January 2015, PEA courses will no longer be counted to credit. For students whose graduate hinges on obtaining a credit or grade from the PEA courses, individual advising will suffice.
- Who will notify students? J. Cavanaugh suggested the Dean's office direct communications. Robin doesn't want the notification to come from Student Records (nor questions directed there) because this was not their change.
 - Students don't think it's fair to the students who enrolled under the old assumption that they would be getting credits. It was explained that there are logistical issues in having a mix of students with and without credit being too difficult to navigate. Solution proposed: having two sections for each PEA, one with and one without credit.
 - Students come in under a certain catalog (and can opt to be grandfathered in should the catalogue change), but credit hours assigned to the catalogue are not actually assigned, so this is not an issue.
 - If we aren't yet at the 128-credit requirement, could we reverse this decision and delay it until the time when 128 credits becomes the new standard? Perhaps we can provide advance notice to the students in this case as well.
 - Motion: Gloria 2nd Jonathan (unanimous): discussion on this issue is tabled.
- d. INB single unit proposal: open discussion
- i. J. Cavanaugh reported that Dean Bob Smither was not comfortable with AAC taking action today, given that he was not made aware of this proposal as of immediately before our meeting.
 - ii. I. Alon: Proposals originating from Danny Arnold (a hard copy was handed around the meeting) with several possibilities for resolution of the current problem. Alon, representing INB provided AAC with other/additional proposals for possible solutions.

- iii. Jill provided an overview: A couple of years ago, a splinter group left INB, so two business programs now exist (in addition to Holt and Crummer), one each in A&S and CPS. The initial INB dept. has persisted for 17 years. The Board of Trustees recently called for a single business program and to keep accreditation. Ideally, business wants to stay in CPS, and INB wants to stay in A&S.
- iv. Emmanuel: Reported that AAC should see this memo from INB as a response to the fact that it is unclear to INB what the process for dialogue is. The President had promised dialogue and we were waiting for direction. However, when Danny Arnold sent out his options, INB felt it needed to put out its own options as well so we are not blind-sided. We have had detailed discussions and have presented options that are aimed at preserving both departments while fulfilling the desire of the BOT.
- v. Tom Lairson, in reference to the INB-authored single unit document (9.5.14): Given the potentially complex nature of this situation, it is important for the A&S faculty to be involved in how this problem is resolved. Main issue: would the accrediting body (AACSB) accept the proposal; they have gotten feedback from two of their representatives that there is preliminary support for this model to work. Can both departments be viewed by accreditors as a single unit? INB reports little or no communication between the two departments (and the need to have communication).
- vi. J. Cavanaugh: how does economics relate to this situation?
- vii. P. Deaver: Can we (AAC) mandate collaboration? Is there a precedent?
- viii. J. Walz: Can we go to executive committee/council and invite the president to initiate dialogue? Jill will report on this from the perspective of AAC to get this issue in front of the EC.