

9-17-2013

## Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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## **Academic Affairs Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
**September 17, 2013**

### **Opening:**

Claire Strom called to order the regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee at 12:30 pm on September 17, 2013 in CSS 167.

### **Present:**

Claire Strom, Vidhu Aggarwal, Pedro Bernal, Gregory Cavanaugh, Gloria Cook, Philip Deaver, Martina Vidovic, Susan Walsh, Jonathan Walz

Visitors: Giselda Beaudin, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Jana Mathews, Holly Pohlig, Kasandra Riley, Paul Stephenson, Katia Chadaideh (student)

### **A. Minutes approved from last meeting (September 3, 2013)**

### **B. Jana Mathews – Request for New Prefix/Header in Banner**

Jana Mathews suggested a new prefix be created for career-related courses at Rollins. The new prefix and header in Banner will help students to identify such courses and to target them for consideration based on course instructor, content, and career-related benefits. The proposed prefix is “J” (for “jobs”) with the accompanying header of “Career and Life Planning” (or CRS) in Banner.

Claire Strom noted that as a result, for instance, a career-related biology course might be designated “JBIO.” This more user-friendly system better organizes career-related courses.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the new prefix and header in Banner.

### **C. Giselda Beaudin – Australia Study Abroad Changes**

Giselda Beaudin noted recent changes to the Rollins study abroad program to the University of Sydney. The remade program is academically and personally challenging for students (due to a home stay, city-living, etc.). In consultation with Denise Cummings (Australia Studies Coordinator), Giselda Beaudin developed a second Australia study abroad program as a counterpoint: University of Newcastle, near Sydney. The small town environment of the University of Newcastle offers students less challenging, day-to-day challenges while maintaining high academic standards. Giselda Bauedin reported that Mike Gunter and Mike Rinaldi visited the

University of Newcastle and gave positive feedback from their respective experiences as faculty and staff. Giselda Beaudin anticipates that attendance in the two programs will be roughly equally split at 5-8 students each.

Jennifer Cavanaugh added that there had been multiple appeals concerning grades issued to Rollins students by the University of Sydney, which also stimulated a search for additional programs in Australia.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the new relationship with the University of Newcastle.

**D. Giselda Beaudin – Transfer Credits (through Study Abroad) and Impacts on Student Residency and GPA**

Giselda Beaudin suggested AAC consider the effects of transfer credits on student residency status and GPA. The issue is prescient due to an increased number of Rollins students on study abroad programs the last five to seven years. In this light, Giselda Beaudin queried whether college policies should be reconsidered?: 1) Should approved study abroad programs continue to count in the Rollins residency requirement?, and 2) Should transfer credits from approved programs be counted in the GPA towards student accolades (President's and Dean's lists).

Claire Strom raised a related question: Does International Programs at Rollins operate at a budget deficit.

Giselda confirmed the operation at a deficit, but noted that this is typical of such programs at colleges. She further said that Rollins should revisit its budget for International Programs given the significant increase in student participation in study abroad since the budget was last revised (prior to Giselda's tenure at the college).

Gloria Cook inquired about the impact of the new 128-credit graduation requirement on residency, as it relates to study abroad. Jennifer Cavanaugh noted that the change to 128-credit graduation requirement offers an opportunity to address issues raised by Giselda Beaudin. A brief discussion ensued in which Claire Strom noted that the residency requirement for students remains unchanged at 70 hours under the new graduation requirements (see AAC notes, March 26, 2013).

Claire Strom suggested that - given SACS accreditation requirements - Giselda Beaudin and the Faculty Advisory Committee for International Programs be tasked with developing a policy about transfer credits and how they impact student residency and GPA. Giselda Beaudin agreed and suggested that if Rollins places a limitation on the number of times a student can carry their aid abroad, then questions about residency may be moot.

**E. Susan Walsh – Revisions to Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Major Map**

Susan Walsh noted that revisions to the biochemistry/molecular biology major map will provide more flexibility, better student preparation, and equality of education

among student majors. Moreover, revisions to the map account for shifts in the frequency of courses taught. If approved, the revised major map would take effect Fall 2013. Susan Walsh noted the proposed changes: 1) altered map headings so majors cannot also minor in biology and chemistry (since biochemistry is interdisciplinary), 2) adjusted wording on the map stating seven major courses must be at the 300- or 400- level, 3) added requirement of Organic Chemistry II (CHM 221) as a prerequisite to Biochemistry (BCH 335), in line with the majority of our peer and aspirant institutions, 4) changed expectation that students take either BCH 440 or BCH 449, so students complete only one senior thesis paper (rather than two: Senior Seminar paper and, if students choose, an Honors thesis), 5) reduced number of required electives from four to three ( $\geq$  fourteen credits) and eliminated four courses from major elective choices, and 6) added passing American Chemical Society Standardized Exam.

Greg Cavanaugh asked what would result if a student failed the Chemical Society exam. Based on previous experience with Rollins students in the major, Paul Stephenson and Kasandra Riley responded that this would be very rare. Paul Stephenson further noted that "passing" meant falling within two standard deviations of the national, mean score. However, if a Rollins student did not pass, the student would be given an opportunity to take a make-up exam.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved to adopt the revised major map for Biochemistry/Molecular Biology.

**F. Jennifer Cavanaugh – Academic Warning/Probation/Dismissal Policy for Maymester**

Jennifer Cavanaugh noted that if a student receives a "D" or below in their one Maymester course, then the student receives academic probation. She queried whether this is a fair policy (since, in this instance, the "term" is represented by only one course). Jennifer Cavanaugh suggested that the student catalog be amended to not represent Maymester as a term and, therefore, prevent academic probation from arising out of a poor performance in a single course. However, if the course performance during Maymester brings a student's overall GPA below 2.0, then the normal rules will apply to academic standing.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved to amend the student catalog along the lines suggested by Jennifer Cavanaugh.

**Adjournment:**

Claire Strom adjourned the AAC meeting at 1:09pm. The next general meeting of AAC will be at 12:30 pm on September 24, 2013 in CSS 167.

**Minutes submitted by**

Jonathan Walz

**Approved by**

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