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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2013

Opening:

Claire Strom called to order the regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee at 12:31 pm on September 24, 2013 in CSS 167.

Present:

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

Visitors: Jennifer Cavanaugh, Fiona Harper, Robin Mateo, Holly Pohlig, Katia Chadaideh (student)

A. Minutes approved from last meeting (September 17, 2013)

B. Fiona Harper – Marine Biology Major Revisions

Fiona Harper proposed two changes to the Marine Biology major. These changes result from the recent hire of an animal physiologist and concerns about appropriate field experiences for majors. The first change is the addition of a course – BIO 237: Vertebrate Zoology – to the list of offerings under the Marine Organisms category of the major map. Fiona Harper noted that BIO 237 will be taught in alternating years with BIO 236: Invertebrate Zoology. The new course strengthens the Marine Biology major. The second change to the Marine Biology major replaces one of the three options majors have to fulfill their field study requirement. The new map eliminates the option for an approved internship and replaces that option with one approved marine-related course at the 300-level or above. Fiona Harper explained that the second proposed change results from the variation in quality and thoroughness often provided by internships.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed Marine Biology major revisions.

C. Claire Strom – New Course Approval Form Changes

Claire Strom noted growing concern at Rollins about courses that may require course travel for students (non-field studies) and/or IRB clearance. To account for these concerns, Claire Strom suggested two changes to the New Course Proposal Form. The first proposed change (Section 1) asks, “Will the class require student travel? If so, please explain.” Vidhu Aggarwal, Jennifer Cavanaugh, and Claire Strom agreed

that this amendment will alert the New Course Subcommittee of AAC to courses requiring student travel and any “hidden” student expenditures. The second proposed change (Section 4) asks, “Will the class require IRB approval?” Martina Vidovic and Jonathan Walz noted that within-class activities not advertised beyond Rollins do not require IRB approval. Susan Walsh suggested that non-human animals (and, thus, IACUC clearance) be addressed in the latter change.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed changes (with Susan Walsh’s suggested modification) to the New Course Approval Form. [Post hoc Robin Mateo agreed to update the existing form.]

D. Jennifer Cavanaugh and Holly Pohlig – AA Transfer Student GenEd Requirement Changes

Jennifer Cavanaugh and Holly Pohlig introduced GenEd requirement changes for transfer students with an AA. Claire Strom explained that these changes are necessary due to the larger changes in the GenEd curriculum at Rollins. The primary outcome of these changes impacts transfer students with 30+ transferred credit hours who enter in Fall 2015 or thereafter. The proposed changes require these students to enroll in a combined RCC/100-level course, one 150-level course (or 200-level course), one 200-level course, one 300-level capstone course, and Rollins competencies (if not transferred in). In addition, such students can appeal to have one transferred course considered as a neighborhood course.

Jennifer Cavanaugh noted that transfer students would be treated the same as non-transfer students in course assessment. Susan Walsh highlighted that in order to assure equal assessment of students that the “or 200-level course” be stricken from consideration as an option.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed changes (with Susan Walsh’s suggested modification) to the AA Transfer Student GenEd Requirements.

E. Jennifer Cavanaugh – Self-design Major (Hannah Cody)

Jennifer Cavanaugh introduced the self-design major of Hannah Cody, which draws on Women’s Studies, Global Health, Anthropology, and Sociology. Two separate concerns arose about the proposed major. First, Pedro Bernal, Gloria Cook, Martina Vidovic, and Jonathan Walz expressed a general concern about self-designed majors and whether such students depart Rollins adequately prepared (in terms of methodology, etc.) to enter a career and/or additional schooling. Claire Strom and Jenny Cavanaugh suggested that this broader issue be considered separately at a later date. Second, Gloria Cook, Susan Walsh, Jonathan Walz, and Martina Vidovic raised concerns about the level of courses (not noted in Hannah Cody’s application) and the probability of the timely completion of Hannah Cody’s self-designed major (given that she is an Honors student, plans to study abroad, and that some of her suggested courses are not taught regularly, etc.). Claire Strom, among others, highlighted that Hannah Cody is an excellent student. The proposed major does meet the intent of the self-designed major (bringing together disparate fields of study to encourage

interdisciplinary scholarship). Claire Strom and Philip Deaver also emphasized their confidence in Rachel Newcomb (Hannah Cody's adviser) to guide Hannah Cody through the self-designed major.

By a straw poll, AAC encouraged Hannah Cody to resubmit her self-design major application and, in doing so, to take account of the suggestions of AAC, namely to clarify the level of courses in her proposal and to present a reasonable map to timely completion.

F. No meeting next week (Oct. 1)

Adjournment:

Claire Strom adjourned the AAC meeting at 1:22pm. The next general meeting of AAC will be at 12:30 pm on October 8, 2013 in CSS 167.

Minutes submitted by

Jonathan Walz

Approved by
