

Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Council

Minutes

11-10-09

8:00 to 8:50 a.m.

Lab of Mechanics

- 1) Members present: Robert Martin, Agriculture; Michael Clough, CI (CHS); Jim Thompson, FSCC; Suzanne Hendrich, Chair; C. Arthur Croyle (for A. Katz), Design; Geoff Abelson, CHS (ASAA); Sanjeev Agarwal, Business.
- 2) Meeting was called to order by S. Hendrich at 8:00 a.m. in the Lab of Mechanics.
- 3) Jim Thompson gave a report from the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee.
  - a. There is a concern about minors. A list of all minors is being compiled and will be posted.
  - b. There is a concern as to who approves graduate level majors and minors. Should the entire faculty of a college approve (vote) majors/minors or just the graduate faculty? This is a concern in general but especially so with inter-disciplinary programs. Those in charge of college governance documents should review and clarify the necessary approval mechanisms. The assumption is that academic proposals are approved at all appropriate levels but it is not clear that this assumption is correct.
- 4) “Academic poaching” may be emerging (e.g. a department other than math offering a math course). There is no known case but there may be a need to monitor this situation. Department and college curriculum committees need to be more proactive in monitoring this concern in dealing with experimental courses and their approval. There is already a procedure to follow in filing an objection to an experimental course.
- 5) Geoff Abelson, Academic Standards and Admissions Committee, reported that an approval process is in motion for a Math proposal to more appropriately place students in Math.

The issue of returning military veterans using their international experience as a substitute for the international perspective seems to be problematic because the intent of the Senate does not appear to be functioning. The process should be easier. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Provost/Registrar regarding making this process easier and handled by the advisor via the audit form.

There is a concern regarding entering freshman students bringing a large number of community college credits earned in high school and being used for ISU credit toward a degree. The rigor in these courses is the on-going issue. ISU has no control over these community college credits and students acquiring these credits while in high school. While ISU probably cannot do much of anything about this matter at the high school or community college levels, ISU can set its own program and academic standards and require students to achieve them in order to complete a degree program. There will be further discussion of this issue.

- 6) It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting. Some corrections were noted. Motion passed.
- 7) The next meeting of the Academic Affairs Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 in Lab of Mechanics at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert Martin