

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

Jorge Nobo convened the Academic Affairs Committee at 3:30 pm in the Boswell Room of the Memorial Union. Members present were: Bill Roach, Steven Elisha, Patricia Renn-Scanlan, Jane Carpenter, Shaun Schmidt, and Loran Smith.

Agenda Items:

1. The Chair reviewed the charge of the Academic Affairs Committee from the Faculty Handbook, Section One, VII.A.2. Two major decisions made last year were: (1) to reconstitute the membership of the Committee to reflect the same composition as the Faculty Affairs Committee, and (2) to require that passage of any motion requires a supermajority of six votes.
2. The minutes of the May, 2006 electronic meeting were approved.
3. Election of officers for 2006-2007.
 - a. The floor was open for nomination for chair of the committee. Loran Smith nominated Jorge Nobo who was unanimously elected.
 - b. The floor was open for nominations for the position of secretary. Shaun Schmidt nominated Loran Smith who was unanimously elected.
4. Review of New or Changed Programs (First Reading of Faculty Senate.)
 - a. Revision of B.P.A. program, major in Public Administration was approved by the Committee.
 - i. Revision modifies and updates catalog description of the program.
 - ii. Revision modifies require courses into a core of 27-30 hours and electives of 9-12 hours to insure that students can complete the program within the 40 major-hour limitation.
 - b. Revision of the B.S. in Chemistry to increase major from 44 hours to 45 hours by increasing CH 345 from a one-hour to two-hour course. The proposal was approved by the Committee.
 - c. Revision of the B.S. in Athletic Training to delete IS 170 and substitute NU 102 (Medical Terminology) as a requirement for the major. The proposal was approved by the Committee.
5. English, Math, and Physical Education general education requirements.
 - a. The chair reminded the Committee that review of these requirements was part of its charge to revise General Education. There was some discussion focusing on the English requirement and whether there may be a discrepancy between what the general faculty is seeking from EN 101 and EN 300 and what these courses are providing.
 - b. Smith moved that we invite the Freshman English Coordinator and the Advanced English Coordinator to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss procedures, requirements, and goals and means of EN 101 and EN 300. Motion approved.
 - c. Smith moved that the Committee ask Institutional Research to provide data relevant to the performance of students in EN 101 and EN 300 such as ACT scores, number

of transfer students, number of hours transferred, etc. to provide some data-based information in addition to anecdotal evidence. Motion approved.

6. Review results from the faculty survey of General Education

The Committee reviewed much of the survey and commented on some of the more interesting results. Some observations:

- a. Perhaps a information program on General Education should be part of New Faculty Orientation?
- b. Many of the skills were not clearly defined and since some faculty did not know what they were, they may have ignored them.
- c. It may be possible that many of the skills overlap in such a way that the number of skills could be significantly reduced.
- d. Need to make the skills easy to understand for faculty and students.

Next Meeting of the Committee will be on October 2, 2006 at 3:30 pm in the Boswell Room.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 pm