

Academic Affairs Committee, 18 February 2008

In attendance: Frank Chorba, Dave Pownell, Caren Dick, Patricia Renn-Scanlan, Pat Munzer, Bill Roach, Karen Camarda, Jorge Nobo, Tom Prasch; Nobo noted at the outset that Robin Bowen would be unable to attend.

Minutes were approved.

The committee moved and approved after some discussion the distribution for comment concerning possible modifications or particular difficulties of VPAA Bowen's proposal for a uniform course-numbering system and the accompanying narrative, setting a distribution list that would include deans (including the dean of the School of Law, with instructions to forward it to associate or assistant deans, curriculum committees, division heads, and chairs), Carla Rasch in the Registrar's Office, and Donna Lalonde for feedback on Banner issues. The committee determined that feedback would be directed to Prasch, as secretary of the committee, and VPAA Bowen, and set a deadline of April 7.

Among the issues raised in committee were the need to renumber significant numbers of courses in nursing and SAS, the possible problem of joint programs with the School of Law and both Criminal Justice and Social Work, possible issues with accrediting agencies, and feedback already received from the School of Business on the origins of its numbering system.

Nobo raised the problem of the need to address directly the proposal on course numbering already forwarded by the College Faculty Council (6 December 2006). The following decision was moved and approved by the committee: Because of the perception that the CFC proposal introduced conflicts and difficulties in a number of areas, the committee has chosen instead to take up the proposal of VPAA Bowen.

Nobo agreed to forward to the above-mentioned distribution list the VPAA's proposal, the accompanying narrative, and the request for feedback.

The committee then turned to the discovery since the last meeting by Prasch, investigating the origins of current catalog language on course numbering, that the language seemed to have migrated from the catalog area specific to the College of Arts and Sciences to the catalog material covering university-wide policies in the 2005-06 catalog year without apparent action to make that migration happen, at least that anyone could remember. The following motion was made: In light of the investigations of the Academic Affairs Committee into course numbering, during which it was discovered that the present catalog text had migrated from CAS to university sections of the catalog, the committee would like to ask the VPAA or her designate to meet with the committee to outline the existing process and protocols for changes to the catalog, both in its hard copy and Banner formats. The motion carried.

After some brief discussion about how it could be ensured that the committee would manage to communicate widely and get full feedback on any proposals forwarded for

changes in general education, further discussion of specific proposals was postponed until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.