Minutes
Academic Affairs Council
September 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: Carol Roskey (Chair), Nikki Bado-Fralick, Joanna Courteau, Marwan Ghandour, Ken Kruempel, Pete Reilly, John Schroeter (guest), Sriram Sundararajan, Eileen Thacker

Absent: Alexandra Braun, John Wong

This being the first meeting of the year, there were no previous minutes to approve.

Discussion turned toward agenda items, beginning with brief introductions by members and moving to procedural matters.

Procedural business: Sundararajan was chosen Vice-Chair. No secretary was appointed; members will take turns taking minutes, beginning alphabetically with Bado-Fralick.

Roskey initiated brief discussion on the committee’s charge and ways to make the AAC more efficient without compromising standards. This led to discussion of agenda items from the Curriculum Committee.

Kruempel, chair of the Curriculum Committee, briefed AAC members on the two proposals before them and noted changes in their approval procedure instigated by recent policy decisions of the Board of Regents (BOR).

As former chair of the Curriculum Committee, Schroeder spoke about the two proposals, beginning with the MFA in Creative Writing and Environment, which was approved by the Curriculum Committee last April. After brief discussion, Courteau moved that we approve the proposal; Sundararajan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Courteau questioned if her department’s name change to World Languages and Cultures would be an item to be discussed by AAC. Roskey replied that the issue of the name change had already gone to the Executive Board.

Discussion moved on to the second proposal: undergraduate minor in digital media in the Design College. Pertinent to this proposal, Kruempel pointed out that approvals for minors no longer go to the BOR. Instead, they follow the normal route to the Executive Board, Faculty Senate, and end at the Provost’s Office.

Schroeter briefed members on the proposal, in particular: a) that the digital media minor is considered an essential design skill and b) that it is unusual because it is a minor in which there is no current major. Further question arose about whether this minor is restricted to Design majors and if that restriction is an issue that needs to go before the Academic Standards Committee. After discussions among Kruempel, Courteau, Ghandour, and
Schroeter, it appeared that the restriction was an attempt at enrollment management. Courteau moved to approve the proposal conditionally, contingent upon discussions with the Provost’s office about the restriction; Bado-Fralick seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Members then discussed changes in BOR policy regarding post-audit reports on new programs. The previous policy necessitated approval by the various committees and Faculty Senate before going to the Provost and then to the BOR. Last year, six programs had been approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee:

1) undergraduate major in Operations and Supply Chair Management 
2) undergraduate secondary major in International Business 
3) Master of Accounting 
4) undergraduate major in Communication Studies 
5) interdepartmental graduate program (MS) in Information Assurance 
6) interdepartmental graduate program (MS/PhD) in Sustainable Agriculture

A seventh program report was in the works, but had not been completed.

Since the BOR no longer requires post-audit reports separate from normal program reviews, Kruempel suggested that the post-audits from last year be forwarded to the Provost without additional approval by the Faculty Senate. Thacker so moved; Kruempel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

An item for future discussion with David Holger would be the lines of review as they currently exist, so that the AAC can determine if it needs to engage this matter in further deliberation.

Anticipating other items for future discussion, Kruempel talked about criteria for undergraduate certificates. ISU has none; U of I has several. Certificates tend to be more than a minor/less than a major, considered somewhat to highly marketable, and awarded at the time of graduation. Like the post-audits, the BOR no longer wants to be part of the approval process.

Also up for future discussion is the process for new programs/majors, which has changed as a result of new BOR policies made in March. Roskey noted that the seed technology proposal would also be an item for discussion this fall.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.

Minutes taken by Nikki Bado-Fralick