Academic Affairs Council Meeting  
October 30, 2006

The meeting began at 9:03 AM

Present: Suzanne Hendrich (Chair), Ed Braun, Greg Luecke, , Nikki Bado-Fralick, Joanna Courteau, Marwan Ghandour, Ken Kruempel, David Holger, John Wong

Guests: Rick Sharp (Health and Human Performance Dept)

The minutes of the September, 2006 meeting were passed. (Moved: Marwan, Seconded: Greg). John was appointed the secretary for this meeting.

The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate the presentation by Rick Sharp regarding the name change from the Department of Health and Human Performance to the Department of Kinesiology. The rationale for the name change is that the discipline has evolved over the past two decades from a teacher education focus to more of a science and technology focus. Graduates from the program now include students entering health professional programs and medical schools. Kinesiology is the umbrella term generally used to describe human movement and is widely used by academic programs across the country. The accrediting board has validated the term and its use for programs such as that at Iowa State. Hence, the faculty in the Department of Health and Human Performance voted to support the name change to better reflect the nature of the discipline as well as demands of its constituents – prospective students and employers. Rick reported that there was unanimous support within the department, and the only key issue debated was whether the term “health” should be included in the name of the new department. The ensuing discussion covered, among the issues, those related to cross-listing of the courses with departments in the College of Design and the College of Engineering, and how the degrees would be labeled. Rick indicated that the degrees would eventually be renamed as follows: BS in Kinesiology and Health (currently BS in Health and Human Performance), Masters in Kinesiology (currently MS in Exercise and Sports Science), and PhD in Kinesiology (currently PhD in Health and Human Performance). After the discussion, the motion was unanimously approved (Moved: John, Seconded: Ed).

Review of FSCC approved curricula in response to Ken’s email on this matter. The discussion revolved around the format of the information to be sent to the Senators for their perusal prior to their deliberations and vote. Ken indicated that the full reports from the colleges will be posted on the FSCC/Senate website. He also indicated that an abbreviated/summary form version comprising sections 1 (trends), 2 (majors or minors added or dropped), and 6 (summary table) will be emailed directly to all Senators. If they are interested to read further, they can access the full reports that are posted. After discussion, the committee endorsed Ken’s recommendations.
Name change of the M. S. and Ph. D. in Plant Physiology to Plant Biology: Since this is not directly linked to the catalog matter, the issue is tabled for consideration in the next meeting.

Special GPA policy as approved by ASAC: The university policy requires that special GPA requirements will need to be reviewed every five years. This is still an ongoing process, with the requests from the Departments of Computer Science and English being sent back to further action. ASAC nor FSAAC have received the updated versions yet.

* Joanna reported that ASAC reaffirm the commitment to the proposed change in policy regarding unmet high school requirements introduced at the last Faculty Senate meeting.

* Questions regarding new GPA requirements are to be sent to their College Academic Standards Committee for approval which will then forward to the FS Committee on Admission and Academic Standards for approval prior to inclusion in the University Catalog.

* Joanna reported that the President was not pleased with the current policy on graduation with distinction and recommended three levels of distinction be instituted. After discussion the president’s request was approved and will be forwarded to the full Senate for consideration. The Senate will have to decide whether the distinction levels be stated in English or Latin.

David raised an issue for later deliberation after the catalog is completed: Whether a grade of “D” is a passing grade. There is no consistent university policy on this matter. Many courses deem a grade of “D” as a failing grade.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57.

Minutes taken by John Wong