Academic Affairs Council  
October 8, 2007, 107 Lab of Mechanics 
Minutes

Present: Suzanne Hendrich, Chair; Geoff Abelson, Academic Standards; David Holger, Provost’s Office; Jim Thompson, Faculty Senate Curric. Comm.; Michael Clough, College of Human Sciences; Marwan Ghandour, College of Design; John Wang, College of Business; Edward Braun, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Meeting began at 8:00 am.

Minutes of the Sept. 25, 2007 meeting were approved. Moved: Clough; Seconded: Thompson.

Thompson reported from Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee: They are developing procedures for getting ISU course numbers for the Great Plains IDEA courses that we participate in. This is needed so that ISU can get credit for these courses. David Holger indicated that this is mostly an issue of mechanics. FSCC is also currently working on getting catalog editors identified for the next round of catalog preparation.

Abelson reported that the Academic Standards committee is currently working on two issues. First, they are working with Admissions on implementation of the new admissions standards that will be in effect for 2009. They are currently developing guidelines for prospective students that are just below the cut-off on the Regent Admission Index. The committee is also studying the impact of the new academic probation policy on retention.

The council discussed items on a list of Academic Program Goals for FY 08 provided by David Holger. Holger told the council about the various groups outside the faculty senate that provided input to the development of the list (Grad Council, CELT advisory board, Honors advisory board, Council on International Programs, etc.) Holger provided some information about the AAU Data Exchange and some plans for developing exit surveys for undergraduate and graduate students. The intent of the surveys will be to find out what the students are doing next and what their learning experience was at ISU.

Suzanne Hendrich reported that LAS has still not assigned a replacement to take Nikki Bado-Fralick’s place on the council.

There was a very brief discussion of the status of Outcomes Assessment programs in the various colleges.

The council continued discussing student course evaluations and other ways of evaluating teaching and learning. The value and importance of peer evaluation and reflective practice were discussed. The council discussed the challenges of using these sources of information in formal evaluation processes like P&T. It was decided to have representatives from CELT come to a future AAC meeting to continue this discussion of student course evaluations, etc. Hendrich
reported on information she found from the Carnegie Foundation, Assoc. of Colleges and Universities, etc.

We discussed what our goals should be concerning evaluation of teaching and learning. We need to decide whether we will suggest policy, whether we will suggest best practices, etc. The group felt that AAC can contribute to improving the learning environment at ISU by thoughtfully exploring these issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Next Meeting: October 22.

Minutes prepared by Ed Braun.