Academic Affairs Council Meeting
November 10, 2009 -- 8-8:50 am, 107 LoM

Review/approve minutes

FSCC report

ASAC report

Other items

1. It appears that “academic poaching” may be emerging and that experimental course and curricular approval processes may need to be modified or at least sensitive to the possibility. By “academic poaching” I mean a disciplinary course being introduced by a department other than the disciplinary home department for the course. Although not yet occurring to my knowledge, an example would be a department other than math offering a math course. Review current language of Sec 10.8 Fac Handbook—is it adequate?

2. Curricular and administrative changes that are mutually supported by the faculty and administrations involved could benefit from expedited review processes whenever that seems reasonable. For example, reconfiguring majors, or perhaps even departments, that are agreeable to the faculty and administrators directly involved, could perhaps be considered and approved at the same meeting (even of the Senate in some cases) if that seems reasonable and appropriate in a particular case (ie. No one sees reason to object or needs more information).

3. Approval of minors derived from and of the same name as existing majors—correction of discrepancy between Provost homepage http://www.academicprograms.iastate.edu/policy/newprogramapproval-minors.html and FSCC (see minor09 file attached)

4. Implementing the waiver of IP req for military veterans who served overseas for >3 mos—see note below

Using the current petition form in part or whole would be do-able on a technical level. However, the form is not always handy, the university is cutting down on paper forms, and this action would not, I contend, remove the “red tape” feature as voted on by Faculty Senate.

I believe there is an already in-place process that we academic advisors can use to have the international perspectives policy met by US military service, and minimum 3 months served out-of-country.

The regular advising process already has a set of codes for use with the DARS (Degree Audit) sent to us: “waive,” “force,” “is met with,” “dual-enrollment,” and so forth. I believe that we could direct advisors to use the “is met with” language, and attach the transcript with military, and the college offices can take it from there. We do this for computer competency (since removed entirely) and other unique circumstances. There are four levels of checks-and-balances in place: academic transcripts, academic advisor her/his self, undergrad director at the department level, and then the college office staff. I feel strongly that this would be sufficient.

It also may be possible for us to work with the transfer equivalency staff on programming such that the military experience is built in for International Perspectives, but that would be for the future.

5. If time:
Review AAC charge (from Faculty Senate website):

Council Charge: Coordinates the creation and consideration of policy in the area of academic affairs, including but not limited to instructional policies, honors programs, and the academic calendar. Coordinates the policy proposals of the Committee on Curriculum and the Committee on
Academic Standards and Admissions. Works with the Committee on Honorary Degrees to solicit nominations from the faculty and to assist the committee as needed.

Consider our mission for 2009-2010

What might AAC do to create opportunities for ISU faculty to make a difference in the area of academic affairs? What aspects of academic affairs policy should we focus on to make a difference at ISU?