Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Council  
Meeting on Tuesday, January 25th, 2011, 12-1:00 pm  
107 Lab of Mechanics

Minutes

Council members present
Suzanne Hendrich, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Chair of AAC  
Paul Anderson, Landscape Architecture & Agronomy, College of Design  
Vlastik Bracha, Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Lee Burras, Agronomy, FSCC/FSASAL  
Michael Clough, Curriculum & Instruction, College of Human Sciences  
David Holger, Associate Provost, Executive Vice President & Provost  
Greg Luecke, Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering  
Robert Martin, Agricultural Education and Studies, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Guests present
None

Previous meeting minutes
December 6, 2010, meeting lacked a quorum, so minutes were not recorded

Committee reports

(a) Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee  
David explained the major changes involved in the transition to the annual digital course catalog, particularly the procedures, timelines, and functionality. Because less time is spent routing materials, the review process will require less time. There will be limited printing, particularly university policies and curriculum materials for freshman orientation packets. The comprehensive faculty listing will continue at the end of the catalog, but separate faculty listings in departmental/program descriptions will be discontinued. It will not be a “real-time” (continuously edited/published) catalog, but rather a frozen/archived catalog of one-year duration. The new software includes functions for advanced searches and functions to distribute proposed changes to relevant departments and programs. Suzanne suggested that at our next meeting the AAC review Faculty Handbook section 10.8 about approval procedures and resolution of curriculum conflicts and issues.

(b) Academic Standards and Admissions  
Lee reported that at the December 14, 2010, meeting a policy was passed requiring a minimum grade of C- for Math 195 and 196 for Elementary Education majors.

Old Business

Suzanne presented her proposal for a university outcomes assessment committee, comprised of a faculty representative from each college and an ex-officio representative of the Provost’s office. This committee would work closely with Jason Pontius, Kevin Saunders’s replacement as Continuous Academic Program Improvement coordinator in the Provost’s office. Jason will be responsible for developing an outcomes assessment plan for the university. There was discussion about the need for a long-range and comprehensive effort concerning assessment of academic learning outcomes. A motion was made to support the proposal and send it to others for their review and comment. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

(a) Suzanne briefly described the forthcoming proposal from the LAS College for a minor in sustainability. This proposal will be discussed at a future AAC meeting.
(b) The AAC discussed the proposed undergraduate certificate in merchandising. No concerns were voiced, either in the AAC meeting or in prior reviews. A motion was made to support the proposal and send it to others for their review, under the condition that approvals be appended along the way. The motion passed unanimously.

(c) David suggested that the AAC take on the task of identifying distinguishing attributes and characteristics of a new degree type at ISU. The impetus for this task is increasing interest throughout the university in 4-year degree programs that are substantially different than current BS and BA degree programs, plus substantially different than “expanded” community college programs. An example of these programs is a bachelor of technology degree. Major issues and concerns include expectations of academic depth and rigor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 12:00 noon

Minutes prepared by Paul Anderson