Membership:  Sanjeev Agarwal [BUS], Katie Brown [GSB Rep.], Tom Daniels [ENG], Brad Dell [LAS; Fall 2012], Heather Greenlee [CVM], Joanne Olson [CHS], Robert Martin [CALS], Frank Peters [Academic Standards and Admissions Chair], Brad Skaar [Outcomes Assessment Committee Chair], Jonathan Sturm [LAS; Spring 2013], Gary Taylor [DES], Janette Thompson [FS Curriculum Committee Chair], Robert Wallace [AAC Chair], David Holger [Assoc. Provost, ex officio]

Activity:

Dead Week Policy:  The AAC was charged with reviewing the current section of the faculty handbook (FH 10.6.4) to examine whether better language could be crafted to develop a policy that would resolve some of the issues that had been previously discussed with student representatives in Spring 2012.  The AAC agreed that the revised language should be proposed as a policy, rather than a set of operational recommendations.  The Council, working with representatives of the Government of the Student Body, developed a sub-committee which discussed intended components of the policy, and then drafted revised language that was proposed to the Executive Board, which will be considered for approval as Senate Docket item, S12-17.

Review of ISUComm:  The Council began discussions regarding a general review of the ISUComm program for undergraduate communication, looking specifically at the function of the program, and what curricular requirements are in place across the curricula that ensures continuation of training in advanced communication courses and in the discipline following completion of English 250.  A draft set of concepts related to the development of a campus-wide survey was compiled and shared with faculty in the Department of English who are involved with teaching in and administering the ISUComm program.  A more specific draft of possible survey questions (to be sent to curriculum chairs in all undergraduate departments and academic programs as an on-line survey) which are intended to gather basic information about communications course requirements in existing curricula, was developed and will be refined during Summer 2013, with plans to administer the survey and gather the data during Fall 2013.  The goal of this project is to determine how the various undergraduate programs follow-up on communications course requirements and provide communications-related experiences within their disciplines.  The results of this study will enable programs to assess the need to ensure adequate communications training to all undergraduate students, and to examine possibilities of improvements which can be done to the advanced communication course offerings.
Extracurricular Activities Make-up Policy: In response to a situation at the University of Northern Iowa involving a student and problems publicized regarding extracurricular activities and making up missed work, the AAC was asked to review Faculty Handbook Section 10.4.3 ['Extracurricular Activities'], and suggest revised language that will provide for required student absences, and the ability for instructors to allow students to make-up missed work. The AAC reviewed several proposed to modify the present FH language, and proposed revision which have been reviewed (and modified) by the Executive Board which are being considered for approval by the Senate as docket item S12-18.

Review of Academic Program Proposals: The AAC reviewed and approved proposals for actions involving the following new or modified academic programs:
- Master of Finance – New Degree
- Bachelor of Public Relations – New Degree
- Minor in Landscape Management – New Degree
- Bachelor of Agricultural Engineering – Name Change
- Bachelor of Family Finance Housing and Policy – Name Change

Early Credit Task Force Report: The Council reviewed the report from the Early Credit Task Force, and requested that two of its constituent committees (Curriculum Committee and Academic Standards and Admissions) to review portions of the report and recommend whether policy changes or modified best practices should be implemented in response to the information contained in the report. The committees have made recommendations and a final response report from the AAC will be prepared and delivered in the Fall 2013 semester, including a report on any actions taken or if new proposals are developed relevant to those recommendations.

Robert S. Wallace, Chair
Academic Affairs Council
1 May 2013