ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL
Meeting Summary
TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2014
2:10-3:00 P.M. - 107 LABORATORY OF MECHANICS

Present: J. Byars, D. Chimenti, J. Olson, R. Peters, B. Skaar, R. Wallace
Guests: Jennifer Margrett (Gerontology Program), Michael Bailey (History)

I. Call to Order at 2:15pm

II. Approval of Minutes of 4 March 2014. Byars moved to approve the meeting summary; Olson seconded the motion; minutes approved as submitted.

III. Announcements
   A. Wallace provided a very brief update on proposals that had been advanced to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Several new proposals are forthcoming to likely be acted on by the end of the Spring 2014 semester.

IV. Committee Reports:
   A. FS Curriculum Committee – (Wallace reported for Thompson) - Several forthcoming proposals being reviewed; on-line experimental course submission system has been activated, although with some small problems regarding the approval chain ("work flow").
   B. Academic Standards and Admissions Committee – Scheduled to meet the week of March 24th – no report.
   C. Outcomes Assessment Committee – Nothing new to report.

V. Unfinished Business:
   None Discussed

VI. New Business:
   A. Proposals for new Graduate Degrees in Gerontology (Ph.D. and M.S.)
      Jennifer Margrett gave an overview of the current offerings of gerontology courses and degrees available, and explained the relationship of ISU with other related gerontology programs as part of a regional consortium. She then explained that the proposed Ph.D. and M.S. degrees would be unique and would provide significant opportunities for students to pursue advanced study in gerontology which is an expanding field. Margrett continued by answering questions about the curricular content of the proposed degrees, and what the relationship of the new degrees at ISU would be to other similar programs. A question was raised about the relationship of the proposed degrees to a degree currently offered at the University of Iowa; it was explained that the gerontology focus at U of I is predominantly health and medical related, which differs significantly from the foci of the proposed degrees, which involve aspects of sociology, economics, aging-related relationships, biological aspects of aging, and other non-medical topics. She noted that there would be little overlap, if any, with the Gerontology program at U of I.
1. Vote to approve Ph.D. In Gerontology:
   6 in favor; 0 opposed, 0 abstain (Proxy vote from Agarwal included)
2. Vote to approve M.S. In Gerontology:
   6 in favor; 0 opposed, 0 abstain (Proxy vote from Agarwal included)

B. Proposal for Discontinuation of the Ph.D. in History of Science and Technology
C. Proposal for renaming Ph.D. Program to Rural, Agricultural, Technological, and Ecological History

Michael Bailey was asked to provide a brief overview of the background involved in requesting the concomitant curricular proposals. The effect of dwindling numbers of faculty in the area of the History of Science and Technology precludes the maintenance of a viable graduate degree program in this area. A decision was made to consolidate the graduate programs in History to a single degree, for which a name change is proposed. He explained that the action would be a zero-cost change, and would consolidate the Ph.D. program which can be supported by existing faculty, and it breadth would be useful to students studying in this discipline. There would still be courses available to study the history of science, but not in sufficient number (or level) to sustain a graduate program in that discipline specifically.

1. Vote to discontinue Ph.D. in History of Science and Technology:
   4 in favor; 1 opposed, 0 abstain
2. Vote to approve name change of History Ph.D. to Rural, Agricultural, Technological, and Ecological History:
   5 in favor; 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Professor Olson offered a lamentation that it is unfortunate to see the end of a graduate program which promoted studies of the history of science, particularly at the Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting: 4 March 2014 – Lab. of Mechanics 107

Recorder: Rob Wallace