Committee on Academic Policy
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2006

Attending: Dave Bailey (Chair), Martine Guyot-Bender, Kevin Grant, Esther Kanipe, Phil Klinkner (ex officio), Seth Major, David Paris (ex officio),

1. The Committee approved the Minutes from the meeting of April 13, 2006.

2. The Committee briefly discussed the list of “under-enrolled” fall courses (courses with fewer than five registered students) provided by the Registrar. The Committee recommended that the Dean contact the Chairs of programs with courses with three or fewer students enrolled to discuss the possibility of using the Department’s teaching resources a bit more efficiently.

3. The Committee met with Professors Toegel and Bartle to discuss the proposed concentration in German Studies. The Committee supported the request, and asked Professor Toegel to provide a draft motion and rationale for the mid-May faculty meeting.

4. The Committee discussed an email from a faculty member that raised concerns about the increased number of limited enrollment, 100-level courses in Art History. The Chair agreed to find out more about the exact history and nature of introductory course offerings in Art History and to report back to the Committee.

5. The Chair reported on the status of the Sophomore Seminar program for 2006-2007. The College is still ~ 50 seats (4 sections) short of the total number needed to accommodate the anticipated demand next year. Professor Strout, coordinator of the Sophomore Seminar Program, reported to the Chair that we are getting closer to our goal, and that he knows of at least two more sections that might be added for Spring 2007. The Committee decided to put off any formal action on the Sophomore Seminar program until the fall.

6. The Chair distributed an email from the Registrar outlining her thoughts on the possibility of changing the enrollment limits of both Sophomore Seminars and Writing Intensive courses to 18. Her initial response to raising the enrollment limits on proseminars was positive, although she was worried about the consequences of decreasing enrollment limits on WI courses. She recommends a more detailed and careful analysis of course offerings and enrollment patterns by academic level before proposing any legislation.

7. The Committee met with Vice President for Information Technology Smallen and Professor Kelly to discuss the Campus Planning Committee’s report on issues related to student retention at Hamilton College. The Committee identified two areas in the Planning Committee’s report where the CAP might be able to play a role in helping to achieve some of the stated goals of the study:
   a. Instituting academic theme housing
   b. Supporting service learning and internship experiences

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Dave Bailey