Minutes

Committee on Academic Policy

Sept. 7, 2006

Present:  D. Boutin, E. Kanipe, S. Major, S. Pellman (Chair), N. Strout, J. Urgo (ex officio)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Committee discussed the disposition of the memorandum concerning The Alexander Hamilton Center.

The Dean asked about the standardization of College procedures for the foundation of new scholarly organizations. The Committee referred him to the Academic Council because such changes would involve changing the Faculty Handbook.

The Committee discussed possible replacements for the remainder of the term of Prof. K. Grant, who has resigned from the Committee.

The Dean cleared up some confusion over the status of the allocation request from the Department of Religious Studies.

The Committee discussed recent problems with the online catalogue and the many ways that it was out of sync with the printed version. They discussed the complexity of the management issues, the fact that the expert had left the College's employ and a replacement was not yet hired, and the students' comfort with online resources. They discussed whether the College should discontinue the print version, and decided that it should not; the print version is still useful to faculty and students, and is an important part of the Admissions literature. They recommended the appointment of a "catalogue summit," including representatives of CAP, Communications, and other interested parties, in order to address the technical problems of keeping the online version up to date.

The Committee approved the Departmental planning initiatives of the Department of English, Department of Geosciences, and the Women's Studies Program. Subcommittees of CAP will be:

- English: Boutin and Kanipe
- Geosciences: Major and Strout
- Women's Studies: Strout and Boutin

The Committee discussed the motion related to sophomore seminars, and the timing for bringing it to the faculty. They decided to solicit wider faculty comment via FACCUR and to definitely bring the motion some time during fall 2006.

The Committee began a discussion of proseminars. They decided to ask for research from the Registrar, and to discuss this issue with her at the next meeting.

The Dean assured the Committee that the Research Corp. grants to Physics and Chemistry were additions to the faculty and were not intended to be compensated by direct reductions of two positions elsewhere. The allocation process will continue to be based on the facts related to each request.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther S. Kanipe