MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY


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

The meeting began at 4: 15.

1. Minutes of Sept. 7 were corrected and approved.

2. K. Freidel joined the Committee for a discussion of proseminars. She shared data with the Committee, and offered her views on the enrollment patterns for proseminars.

3. The Committee expanded the discussion into the larger issue of the place of small courses in the curriculum, especially in light of the Mellon research, and of the relation of faculty advising to first-year courses. The Committee plans to return to the issues related to proseminars at the next meeting.

4. The Committee discussed two motions for the agenda of the next faculty meeting, one to abolish the requirement that all students complete a sophomore seminar, and the other that the faculty go into a Committee of the Whole to discuss the details of how to remodel the Sophomore Seminar Program in order to keep all the many positive aspects that it has added to the curriculum. The Dean returned to the comments about priorities from his remarks at the recent faculty meeting, and reported on three initiatives. He will instruct the Quantitative Literacy Committee to study that testing requirement, and perhaps redefine and enhance it. He plans to create two task forces on other curricular initiatives. One task force will consider ways to strengthen the Oral Communication Program. The other task force will focus on first-year seminars. The Dean expects reports from these three groups early in the spring term.

5. The Committee agreed to bring the two motions concerning sophomore seminars to the faculty at our next meeting in October.

6. The Committee discussed enrollment limits in Writing Intensive courses, and asked the Registrar to do some research.
7. The Committee discussed the methods by which we measure the FTE and student enrollments in departments. We are seeking clarification on these issues. Seth Major agreed to take charge of this.

8. The Committee discussed our letter to the authors of the Alexander Hamilton Center, and the request of some faculty that the letter be made public. The majority of the Committee felt that the letter was not an official document and thus did not require publication on the web; the letter was advice to three faculty who asked for our advice. The letter was not labeled a confidential document, and some faculty have requested to read the letter and have done so. The majority of the Committee felt that the creation of the AHC did not fall within the CAPs areas of responsibility, and therefore that our role in this matter was ended.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Kanipe