The Committee on Academic Policy

MINUTES OF THE MEETING NOV. 30

Present: Professors Boutin, Kanipe, Klinkner (ex officio), Major, Sciacca, and Strout.

The meeting began at 4:15 p.m. In the absence of Professor Pellman, Professor Kanipe chaired the meeting.

1. The minutes of Nov. 9 were corrected and approved.

2. The Committee discussed the recent display of several brightly colored posters advertising new courses for spring 2007. Members observed that such posters are part of our consumer social ethic, and that there is no rule against such postings. Members noted that the posters seem to come from new faculty, and were about only new courses. Nonetheless, considerable staff time and departmental funds are expended in this effort. The Committee is concerned about the possibility of ever increasing numbers of such posters, and decided to monitor the numbers and to consider some alternative methods of advertising for new courses.

3. The Committee discussed some questions raised by Professor Klinkner about scheduling hour examinations during evening hours. We discussed whether students should be notified as a part of the course description that courses included evening examinations, and what obligation the professor who schedules the examination might have to inform other faculty who teach in the evenings. We also discussed the related issue of faculty who wish to require students to attend scheduled events outside of class time (lectures, films, etc.) which do not appear on the schedule. We discussed the language in the catalogue (bottom of page 21) which aims to specify the regulation of such examinations. The Committee decided that we need to research more fully the origin of that catalogue language, and then clarify the language before the next catalogue is printed. Professor Major is seeking the extra information. We also decided that the entire issue of the schedules for evenings is anarchy, and may have to be reconsidered by some future CAP.

4. We discussed the upcoming “Catalogue Summit,” organized by C & D, in which a group (Registrar, C & D, computer professionals, etc.) will meet to update the procedures for the production of the online catalogue, and the CAP proposal for new universal forms for submitting and approving changes to the catalogue. We decided that, in addition to Summit participants, the CAP should ask a few departmental chairs to evaluate the forms.

5. Professor Strout reported on the sophomore seminar situation for next fall. The Committee decided that, in addition to courses labeled sophomore seminars, any sophomore who participated in a College Seminar could count that course for his/her sophomore seminar requirement.
6. We discussed a query from Professor Klinkner about a senior who needs one more writing intensive course, but who, rather than simply choosing a writing intensive course, wants special permission to take a non-writing intensive course, but to do extra papers. The Committee decided that such an arrangement does not meet the Writing Intensive requirement, which is about more than just the number of papers assigned.

7. Professor Major informed the Committee that some of the data that we requested from Gordon Hewitt is unavailable because similar colleges don’t collect the data in ways that make it comparable. We decided that, in our memo concerning allocations procedures, we should inform chairs that they have the option of supplementing the data supplied by Mr. Hewitt by doing their own research in these additional areas by consulting with the colleges on our comparison list. Such research will be totally optional, and will be at the discretion of the departmental chairs to decide if it should be part of their case for allocation. The Committee will return to the content of the “White Notebooks” (allocation data and guidelines) next week.

The meetings were adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther S. Kanipe