

REPORT TO COLLEGE COUNCIL FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Oct. 30, 2009

The Academic Affairs Committee has met three times since the last College Council meeting of October 2, 2009.

At the October 9, 2009 meeting, Louise Love, Vice President of Academic Affairs, introduced to Susan Marcus, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. She also distributed a flow chart reflecting changes to the structure of Academic Affairs.

Provost Kapelke joined the Committee and a discussion of the Honors Program proposal that had taken place at the last meeting continued. He said that a copy of the draft proposal would be electronically distributed to the Committee so that we could make a recommendation. He subsequently did this.

Julian Brown, PFAC representative, brought up the subject of students having to leave class or miss class in order to fulfill the required attendance of an event or activity of another class that was assigned by another instructor. The Committee discussed this and asked Julian to bring forward a statement that the Committee could then distribute as a recommendation to the College Community.

At the October 23, 2009 meeting, Royal Dawson from Research, Evaluation, and Planning visited the group to present some preliminary information on the question of changes in GPA over students' careers. After some conversation with the Committee which helped him better target the information that would be helpful to the Committee in their investigation of the issue, he agreed to work with Committee members Rose Economou and Virginia Heaven, and to report back to the Committee at the November 20, 2009 meeting.

The Committee then revisited the subject of the Honors Program proposal, as a draft copy had been distributed to the Committee in advance of the meeting. A more specific and in-depth discussion of the proposal ensued, which is reflected in more detail in the Minutes of this meeting. Provost Kapelke had requested a Special Meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee on the following Friday, October 30, 2009, so that the Committee could formulate and vote on a recommendation then, and the Committee agreed to this.

The Committee turned to the topic of Life Experience Credits, which had initially been taken up by the outgoing Committee in the May 1, 2009 meeting. Peter Hartel, Chair of the Committee, reviewed the minutes and his notes from that meeting regarding the subject, and after discussion the Committee voted to keep the Life Experience Credit requirements and structure as it now stands, with no changes.

At the Special Meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee, on Friday, October 30, 2009, the sole subject was the Honors Program proposal brought forward by the Honors Program Task Force for review and recommendation. Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelley, and Pan Papacosta, from the Science and Math Department and a member of the Task Force, joined Provost Kapelke and the rest of the Committee in discussion of the proposal, details which will be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. After the discussion the guests excused themselves and the Committee continued, en camera, to further the discussion and vote. The Committee voted, unanimously, to recommend the proposal, with the stipulation that the Honors Program be reviewed by the Committee late in Fall 2010 when the data from analysis of the outcomes of the pilot courses from Spring 2010 will be available, and the full Program will have been in progress for the Fall 2010 semester.

The next Academic Affairs meeting will be this afternoon, Friday, November 6, 2009.

