

Academic Foundations Committee Minutes

February 8, 2005

Absent: Noreen Lee – *excused*
Barb Pedula – *excused*
Carl Hanson – *ex-officio*
John Cech – *ex-officio*
George White – *ex-officio*
Janie Park – *ex-officio*

Absent: Abbas Heiat – *excused*
Tasneem Khaleel – *ex-officio*
Randy Rhine – *ex-officio*
Joe Michels – *ex-officio*
Curt Kochner – *ex-officio*

Presiding: Mark Hardt, Chair

Mark Hardt called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m. in the Madison room of the SUB.

The minutes of February 1 were accepted as presented.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. Sequence of Course Proposals

It was noted that the Arts and Sciences Chairs are still a bit confused as to how the process is to work for proposing Academic Foundations courses. If a new course is being proposed, should it go to the UCC first and then back to the CAS Chairs for inclusion in their package? It was noted that if that process is used, the package does not then have to go to the UCC.

It was further cited that we don't know what happens to courses that are not approved by the Chairs or by this Committee. It was suggested that if courses are not included in Academic Foundations, the department can withdraw them or put them forward as regular (non-Academic Foundations) courses. They can also withdraw the courses and revise them for submission to Academic Foundations next year or the year after.

The process was then modified, represented by the following chart.

New and Revised Courses

Dept → CCC → Dean → UCC Academic Senate → Chancellor → Catalog

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Chairs/Dean

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PACKAGE → AFC

Existing Courses

CCC = College Curriculum Committee

AFC = Academic Foundations Committee

It was noted that the above process gives the colleges a chance to organize and prioritize a package themselves. However, they know that if they just send everything they have, that this Committee will do the cutting.

B. Evaluation of Course Submissions

Criteria:

1. No university-level prerequisites
2. Appropriate for submitted Academic Foundations category description
3. Appropriate paperwork
4. Maintain academic integrity promoting intellectual growth
5. Appropriate for a diverse student population
6. Foundational course
7. Fits one or more Board of Regents mandated categories and/or our Academic Foundations Category
8. Academic merits of a course already determined by UCC
9. Course can be assessed as part of Academic Foundations matrix/program

Preferences: (revised)

1. Prefer a more broadly based (not specialized topics), university entry-level course
2. Choose as many high-priority (as indicated by college) courses as possible

It was noted that the two preferences may be the most important things we look at.

C. Advising Problems

It was observed that among the many advisors on campus (faculty and non-faculty), none seem to agree on what counts for gen ed and what doesn't. There is also not much communication between academic programs and the Advising Center.

It was noted that once Academic Foundations goes into effect, everyone who advises students will need to be retrained. It was suggested that the students bring their advising issues to the Academic Senate as well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.