

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Academic Affairs Committee

Minutes for February 5, 2010

Present: Sarah Miller (Chair), Barb Osborn, Mike Retallick, Amy Peyton, Russ Mullen, Melody Carroll, Jim Holtz, Beth Foreman, Russ Jurenka, Mickie Deaton, Howard Tyler, Ebby Luvaga, John Burnett, Nancy Boury, Tom Polito

- 1, Meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by Sarah Miller (committee chair)
2. Minutes from January 15 were read and approved with minor changes.
3. **The 65-credit rule** – Mike Retallick reported on the discussions of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Curriculum Committee. They effectively endorsed the wording that he presented to them regarding the policy. No more than 65 credits can be applied to degree programs from community college transfer courses. There was further discussion regarding transferring community college courses as 300-level courses and developing uniform policies in accepting transfer credits and uniform course numbering systems across community colleges and regents universities in Iowa. .
4. **Honors Program proposal** - Mickie Deaton reported on an Honors Program proposal to change the minimum GPA requirement for Honors students from 3.25 to 3.5. This would reduce the percentage of eligible students at Iowa State from about 25% of enrolled students to about 10% of enrolled students. This is closer to their goal of approximately 7% of students being eligible, and also brings the number of eligible students down to a number they can manage within their budget. There was discussion regarding the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honors Program in general, what benefits the program provides for our students, and whether it benefits them following graduation. It was suggested that the discussion be tabled until Dr. Cunnick could be invited to a later meeting to address the committee's questions.
5. **EIS issues** – Melody Carroll proposed that we consider reducing the number of EIS sessions we participate in as a college and perhaps split the departments into 10 am and 1 pm meeting times within these reduced number of sessions to accommodate our reduced staff numbers and increased workloads. Tom Polito explained that the decisions regarding EIS times and dates are made at Admissions and that we have input, but do not make the final decisions. In addition, students switching majors as they arrive makes it problematic to reduce departmental participation in advance of

student visits. The discussion was tabled for discussion at a later meeting. Suggestions regarding EIS times and dates should be e-mailed directly to Beth Foreman (bforeman@iastate.edu).

6. Dean of Students Office – Keith Robinder and Kipp Van Dyke visited the committee from the Dean of Students Office and explained their roles and the roles of the Dean of Students Office in assisting students. They attempt to help students in understanding the offices and processes that are available to them as students. They also coordinate information from multiple offices regarding specific students to help assist in the decision-making process regarding how to help with the issues affecting that specific student. They distributed information to help advisors and instructors know when to refer students or student issues to the Dean of Students office. They also provided information on what information can and should be shared with their office. They discussed their role in providing emergency notification for specific student issues to instructors and advisors. Russ Mullen asked about their role in the judicial process with students accused of academic misconduct and whether it was possible to use that incident as a teachable moment rather than always being punitive. They responded that that was now a possibility and encompassed within their job descriptions.