

College of Arts & Sciences
Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Monday, October 14, 2013

Present:

Voting members: Professors Stepan Simek, Bryan Sebok, Susan Glosser, Janis Lochner and Ellen Seljan

Guests: Harrison Chase – student representative

Absent: Ex-officio members: Tuajuanda Jordan - Dean of the College, Gary Reiness - Associate Dean of the College, George Battistel - Associate Vice President of Finance

Recorder: Anne Boal - Mathematical Sciences

The minutes for the September 26, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

In the future, Chair Stepan Simek will let us know if a meeting is cancelled. Last week there was a communication breakdown regarding a possible meeting.

Professor Ellen Seljan presented her analysis and model on the new General Education requirements. This model will help us determine the costs of the new requirements, by determining how many more seats in courses would be needed in the Social Sciences and in the Arts and Humanities areas. Her equation has many variables that need to be supplied to us by the Institutional Research department. It also would be helpful to calculate this equation by each Division, to see if the new requirements would have a different impact on these different groups of students.

Professor Janis Lochner brought up the point that the new requirements may make it harder for MNS majors to fit overseas trips in their schedules, since they would not be able to count their overseas credits towards the new SS and AH requirements. The MNS majors have heavy course requirements in their division and they would be impacted by having to take 2 more SS courses and 1 more AH course. The SS and AH majors already usually take these sort of courses as electives, so they are not as impacted.

There was a discussion about the various Core proposals, however the committee feels that they should know which proposals are serious and still being considered before they spend the time trying to construct a budget analysis. Chair Simek will ask the Curriculum Committee about this and if there are more proposals that had are being considered.

Core proposal #3 retains the Fall Term E&D class and Spring Term courses with only first-year students, but changes to departmental, introductory-level, low-cap courses. This proposal seems to encourage students to choose a major earlier, since the spring course could count towards the major. This seems counter to the spirit of the liberal arts education. It may be expensive to for some departments to staff these additional low-cap classes. However, this proposal may not require MNS departments to offer these courses. The committee may need to poll the departments to see if they can imagine adding these sorts of courses to their curriculum. Students may be able to triple-dip these courses to apply to the core, to general education and to the major, which seems like a stretch.

The committee would like to better understand the fundraising accomplishments and goals of the college. It is not clear that enough is being done in this area. The committee may still invite someone from fundraising to speak to this committee.

This committee will meet again on Tuesday, October 22.