ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting March 3, 1998
3:30-5:00 PM


1. The main issue of the meeting was consideration of faculty teaching load. Loftus Jestin presented his proposal recommending that faculty load be reduced from four to three courses per semester. The rationale is that with a three-credit load, faculty would be able to give students intensive, critical, and often individual attention, especially to their writing, across the curriculum. By means of these supports, students can have more success in achieving our rigorous standards, faculty will have more time for the research that informs their teaching, and everyone will benefit.

A complementary proposal was made by David Blitz, suggesting that the reduced course load be calculated in terms of fewer courses per semester, with all courses worth four credits instead of three.

How load credit is established at other universities will be researched. Also to be determined is whether, contractually, this committee has jurisdiction over that issue, or whether several committees-especially Curriculum—should look at it.

The committee decided that, after considering new information to be brought to the next meeting, a draft proposal be reviewed and revised for presentation to the Faculty Senate. The subcommittee to draft the new proposal is composed of David Blitz, Loftus Jestin, and Francis Keefe.

2. Officers for next year: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Schools will be asked to vote in their new members. A nominating committee, consisting of Lee Wonsik Lee, Bob Fischbach, and Charlie Waiveris, will determine a slate of candidates for the offices.

3. Issue of residence requirement. Ross Baiera proposed that 35 out of the 45 hour residency requirement must be taken after the student has earned 70 credits, "so we have some indication that this graduate is really out product." Ross will draft the proposed new language for the catalogue.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Aaronsohn, Secretary