

**Academic Assembly**  
April 1, 2013  
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 210

**MINUTES**

Present: David Arnesen, Brenda Broussard, Mason Bryan, Isiaah Crawford, Tito Cruz, Lynn Deeken, Terry Foster, Sonora Jha, William Kangas, Chuck Lawrence, Kristi Lee, Michael Matriotti, Sean McDowell, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, Chris Stipe, John Strait, Jeremy Stringer

- I. Review of 3-11-13 Minutes
  - A. Approved
- II. Theology and Religious Studies Program Review (*David Powers, Sharon Suh*)
  - A. Enrollment has decreased from 25 to 16 over the past 12 years, so the department has responded in several ways
    1. THRS recently developed two specializations (Christian Theology and Comparative Religion) to appeal to a broader spectrum of incoming majors
      - a. Nationally, there has been a decrease in Christian Theology and Old Testament Hebrew Bible, which is the majority of what we teach at SU
      - b. The number of courses in Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism have been increasing, so the new Comparative Religion specialization will explore course development in those areas
    2. THRS opened 200-level courses to freshman and submitted two new freshman seminar proposals for the new Core
    3. Department is also working to advertise double major possibilities (with history, international studies, psychology, etc.), which has been successful at peer institutions
    4. University makes up for discrepancy in financial aid in those cases where THRS majors do not receive state funding, so this is no longer an issue
  - B. Concern about academic rigor within the major
    1. AY 2013-14 will be a transition year during which current THRS juniors will finish within the program structure that was in place prior to the two specializations
    2. After that, all THRS majors will be put into certain course sections that specifically serve majors
      - a. Additional assignments specific to majors
      - b. Additional learning outcomes specific to majors
      - c. Small enough group that instructor can provide one-on-one time to majors
    3. The department plans to develop a strategic plan during spring quarter, including assessment plans for the two new specializations
  - C. Core transition issues
    1. Department does not have control over caps in Core courses, caps determined by the major and are covered by university funding, not the department or school/college
    2. There is some concern about all Module 2 (and all Module 3) Core courses having the same learning outcomes within their module
      - a. Difficult to determine if the major learning outcomes will be met for majors
      - b. THRS majors may not experience the breadth of learning outcomes that those in other majors experience, since all of their Module 2 and Module 3 courses are in the Core (unique to the THRS major – low enrollment but serving the entire undergraduate population)

- D. New faculty line in Islamic Studies
  - 1. This year there was one open faculty line and the department had to fill the empty Catholic theologian position, which is a necessity for a Catholic university
  - 2. The department will keep requesting a new line for an Islamic Studies scholar
  - 3. All but two of our peer institutions have an Islamic Studies tenure track faculty line
- E. AcA Discussion
  - 1. Correction to item 5 on page 3 to clarify that the department has since addressed the issue and several faculty now teach 400 level courses
  - 2. Delete the recommendation on page 4 to explore alternative sources of funding for majors
  - 3. Add a suggestion to convert non-tenure track monies to tenure track and consider a shared faculty line with STM and perhaps even 4 plus 1 degree to facilitate interdisciplinary work
  - 4. Memo approved as modified
- III. Critical Dates for Faculty (*Chuck Lawrence*)
  - A. A quick reference sheet for faculty with all required dates across university (roster checks, grades due, curriculum changes, textbook orders)
  - B. The university will decide on a new calendaring system in July, which may have reminder features that obfuscate the need for this document, so Chuck will update AcA in the fall
  - C. In the meantime, let Chuck know of any updates or missing items
- IV. Gender Equity Committee (*David Arnesen*)
  - A. GEC was formed in 2011 to oversee Title IX compliance
  - B. In February 2012, made recommendation to add women's crew
    - 1. Hired women's crew coach in July 2012
    - 2. 37 student athletes on the first regatta
    - 3. Currently running a search for a new coach
  - C. We are slightly under our ideal ratio of 60% women student athletes (to 40% men), with the goal to reach full compliance
  - D. GEC is also reviewing all other areas of Title IX compliance, including equipment, scheduling of games, coaching and academic tutors, locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities, per diem rates, publicity, recruitment, etc.
  - E. Discussion of conferences
- V. Athletic Advisory Board (*David Arnesen, Sarah Bee*)
  - A. In general, student athletes are doing well in terms of GPA and their graduation rate exceeds our overall undergraduate graduation rate
  - B. Student athletes are required to bring their game schedule and the student athlete absence policy to their instructor on the first day of class
  - C. Faculty concerned about student athletes missing too many classes should contact Sarah or another athletic advisor
  - D. AcA will invite Bill Hogan to present an overview of the Athletics budget
- VI. Announcements
  - A. Ombudsperson search will include on-campus interviews over the next few weeks
  - B. Faculty Handbook Revision Committee is meeting weekly to review current draft