

1998

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Council on Academic Affairs

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Items Pending

- *97-74 Review of the General Education Program. *
- *98-16 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3033, Dendrology. *
- *98-17 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3851, Plant Anatomy. *
- *98-18 New Course Proposal, BOT 3318, Horticulture. *
- *98-19 Revision of Academic Waiver Rule I.A.2. *
- *98-20 Revision of the Integrated Core Writing Component Requirement. *

Items Approved

- *98-13 Proposal for Honors Program in Mathematics *
- *98-14 New Course Proposal, PLS 3763, Environmental Politics & Policy. *

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

03/12/98

The March 12, 1998, meeting of the Council on Academic Affairs was held at 2:00 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the MLK Union.

- Members present: Dr. Addison, Dr. Bock, Ms. Bordenkircher, Dr. Hanner, Dr. T. Mason, Ms. McGrath, Dr. McCormick, Dr. Owen, Ms. Riley, Dr. Shelton, Dr. Sutton, Dr. Wohlrabe.
- Members absent: Ms. McGrath, Dr. Shelton, Dr. Weidner.
- Staff present: Ms. Dolson, Dr. Evans, Ms. Herrington-Perry, Academic Affairs.
- Guests present: Dr. J. Best, Dr. W. Born, Dr. L. Comerford, Dr. R. Dow, Dr. R. Fischer, Dr. G. Foster, Ms. P. Gartley, Ms. M. Girten, Dr. A. Grant, Dr. N. Greathouse, Dr. F. Hohengarten, Dean Johnson, Dr. C. Krukenberg, Ms. E. McFadden, Ms. M. Messer, Dr. M. Mueller, Dr. K. Nantz, Mr. H. Price, Ms. D. Reid, Ms. T. Sloup, Mr. D. Stephansky, Dr. V. Stephen, Mr. C. Titus, Dr. L. Walker, Dr. R. Wandling, Dr. R. Whittenbarger.

I. Minutes.

The Minutes of March 5, 1998, were approved as published.

II. Correspondence.

1. Academic Waiver Report from the College of Arts & Humanities for February 1998.
2. Academic Waiver Report from the College of Sciences for February 1998.
3. Academic Waiver Report from the Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences for February 1998.
4. Academic Waiver report from the College of Education & Professional Studies for February 1998.
5. Letter (3-3-98) from Maggie May.
6. February 17, 1998, Minutes from the Council on Graduate Studies.
7. February 20, 1998, Minutes from the Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences Curriculum Committee.
8. February 24, 1998, Minutes from the Council on Teacher Education.
9. February 19, 1998, Minutes from the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee.
10. Executive Action (3-5-98) from the College of Sciences.
11. Executive Action (3-9-98) from the College of Education and Professional Studies.
12. E-mail (3-5-98) from Bob Whittenbarger regarding clarification of the waiver rules.

III. 98-16 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3033, Dendrology.

98-17 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3851, Plant Anatomy.

98-18 New Course Proposal, BOT 3318, Horticulture.

98-19 Revision of Academic Waiver Rule I.A.2.

Dr. Hanner moved and Dr. Owen seconded the motion to put these items on the agenda. Voting will be later.

IV. 97-74 Review of the General Education Program.

Dr. Sutton distributed information regarding the Writing Component of the Integrated Core.

V. 98-20 Revision of the Integrated Core Writing Component Requirement.

Dr. Sutton moved and Ms. Riley seconded the motion to add this item to the agenda. Voting will take place later.

- VI. 98-13 Proposal for Honors Program in Mathematics.
Dr. Clair Krukenberg, Dr. Leo Comerford, Mathematics, and Ms. Margaret Messer, Honors Programs, presented the proposal and answered questions of the Council. The motion to approve the proposal passed unanimously.

This action approves the following to become effective Fall 1998:

**Honors Program for Mathematics Majors
with a 3.50 Cumulative GPA**

Admission to the Mathematics Departmental Honors Program will be open to students who have at least a 3.50 GPA, on a 4.0 scale, for all classes, over at least 12 semester hours of work in residence at EIU, and who have the permission of the Director of the Honors Programs and the Departmental Honors Coordinator. Mathematics 2800 (for Mathematics Majors) or 2345 (for Mathematics and Computer Science Majors) must be completed prior to admission.

Students in the Mathematics Honors Program must maintain an *overall* grade point average of 3.50. Students who have been dismissed from the program because their overall GPA has fallen below 3.50 may petition for readmission. Students must raise their grade point average to 3.50 and submit their petition to the Director of the Honors Programs and the Departmental Honors Coordinator.

Departmental Honors Requirements

At least 12 hours, which must include Mathematics 4644, from among the following Honors courses:

Mathematics 4555 Honors Research	3 sem. hrs.
Mathematics 4644 Honors Thesis (required)	3 sem. hrs.
Mathematics 4666 Honors Seminar	2-4 sem. hrs.
Mathematics 4444 Honors Independent Study	1-3 sem. hrs.

Honors thesis supervision will be undertaken by a faculty member approved by the Departmental Honors Coordinator, the student's Faculty Advisor, and the Departmental Chairperson. The thesis must be submitted and defended in accordance with the Senior Thesis Guide and must be signed by the thesis supervisor.

A graduate course (5000+) may fulfill 3 of the above 12 hours with permission of the Director of the Honors Programs, the Departmental Honors Coordinator, and the Graduate coordinator. (A graduate course may not replace Mathematics 4644.)

Students in the departmental honors program must complete all requirements for graduation with a degree in Mathematics, Mathematics with Teacher Certification, or Mathematics and computer Science. The following substitutions may be made:

A mathematics honors seminar in any area may be substituted for the major requirement in that area, or for any elective towards the major, with permission of the Department Honors Coordinator and the Departmental Chairperson. (Example: An honors seminar in Probability may be substituted for Mathematics 3701.)

A mathematics graduate course (5000+) in any area may be substituted for the major requirement in that area with permission of the Departmental Honors Coordinator and the Departmental Chairperson.

- VII. 98-14 New Course Proposal, PLS 3763, Environmental Politics & Policy.
Dr. Richard Wandling, Dr. Melinda Mueller, Political Science, Dr. Robert Fischer, Zoology, presented the proposal and answered questions of the Council. The motion to approve the proposal passed unanimously.

This action approves the following to become effective Spring 1999:

PLS 3763, Environmental Politics and Policy (3-0-3) S. ENV POLITICS. Analysis of environmental policy from the perspective of political science, focusing on policy-making techniques, relationships among policy-makers, and case studies of environmental policy and politics. The primary focus will be on the United States, but the course will cover global issues as well.

- VIII. Summary of the CAA Discussion on Grading Practices:

Some points raised include:

Several discussants felt that grading practices is a non-issue; student learning is really the point. Students are getting better, and faculty does a good job, one faculty member observed. Another felt that more data is needed to conclude that the university is experiencing grade inflation.

Perhaps more data on grade distribution could be disseminated.

The "definitions" included in the catalog (i.e., "A is excellent; B is very good," etc.) are labels rather than definitions. Faculty might discuss with colleagues real definitions. It was noted that instructors of SPC 1310C and ENG 1001C and 1002C have coordinated their grading practices and have established consistency.

Instructors "know" "A" work and their perspective of an "A" might not be the same as students'. Students say they are willing to do what is required to get an "A," but not more. One solution could be for instructors to more clearly communicate their expectations to students.

Students know who gives "A's" and who does not.

In reflecting upon grades, faculty might take into consideration several things: the level of the course, the major, the philosophy of evaluation and the mode of feedback offered to the students. Evaluation should be used to suggest to students methods of improvement.

A possible connection between high grades and high teacher evaluations was mentioned.

While grades are going up at Eastern, 52 percent of students in a recent Textbook Rental Service survey said they do not read the textbook. Another survey at UCLA concluded that students spend less time studying than they spend in class. How do we get to the point of learning without reading and studying?

However, it was noted that these results may or may not apply to Eastern. It was further noted that concepts (expertise, scholarship, use of text and ideas) of higher education may be changing.

Waldo Born presented a model to control grade inflation. As CAA periodically reviews each major, the distribution of grades over a period of time would be noted. Courses not keeping within accepted standards would be identified. CAA could require that either the course be modified or the number of credit hours granted for the course be reduced for lack of rigor.

Some participants felt this would penalize students. Some discussion followed involving change -- how faculty or courses could or should change. Self-monitoring was also suggested as a solution.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Sally Dolson, Recording Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

March 26, 1998, 2 p.m.

Arcola/Tuscola Room - MLK Union

- Agenda: 97-74 Review of the General Education Program.
98-16 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3033, Dendrology.
98-17 Revised Course Proposal, BOT 3851, Plant Anatomy.
98-18 New Course Proposal, BOT 3318, Horticulture.
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