Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee on Independent Studies

I. AAC proposes a “sense of the faculty motion” for the following guidelines related to independent study projects:

_Essential components of independent study projects that receive academic credit:_

A. The work required for an independent study should be equivalent to the work required for a similarly-credited regular course.
   1. This comparison may be based upon the amount of time a student spends working.
   2. This comparison may be based upon the product completed at the end of the independent project.

B. There should be some sort of product at the end of the independent study, agreed upon in advance.

C. There should be regular meetings with the instructor.

_Rationale:_ About half of the departments and programs at Colby have no guidelines for awarding credit for independent study projects. The proposed guidelines were developed from existing departmental and programmatic guidelines, and from responses of chairs and directors to a survey that asked what features would be important for such guidelines.

II. The AAC also proposes the following motion:

*First-year students are not permitted to enroll in independent study for credit during their first semester at Colby*

_Rationale:_ During AACs discussion around guidelines for independent studies projects, we also came to the conclusion that entering students are not academically prepared to do independent work for credit. Our consensus was that it takes at least a semester for students to get some preparation for that work.