Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
September 20, 2016

Present: Jacob Adner, Jenner Foster, Fernando Gouvea, Sahan Dissanayake, Jim Scott, Marta Ameri, Lisa McDaniels, Karlene Burrell-McRae, Nadia El-Shaarawi, Beth Schiller, Margaret McFadden, Jim Sloat

I. The minutes were approved, with minor corrections.

II. Presentation from the Academic Honesty Committee—Scott Taylor

Professor Scott Taylor, the Academic Integrity Coordinator, explained the changes that have been made to the system of adjudicating cases of academic dishonesty brought by faculty members. In his analysis, this new system works better for both faculty and students. Faculty feel better supported bringing cases, and students have received more consistent sanctions and are better enabled to learn from their mistakes. The Review Board found 16 students responsible for academic dishonesty (14 accepted responsibility). The group has also worked hard to build greater understanding of academic honesty and to build a culture that affirms and supports our values. Professor Taylor also presented the results of a small survey that he did of students, which revealed that most students felt they had learned something about academic honesty from faculty members, and that a small but significant percentage had either cheated or knew of others cheating.

What can faculty do? Talk with your students about academic integrity (63% learn about it from professors); be positive and aspirational; report violations; think about your pedagogy.

III. Volunteers for scheduling subcommittee: Jim Scott, Lisa McDaniels, Beth Schiller, Jim Sloat, Jenner Foster

IV. Computational Biology Major Revision: initial discussion/questions

The committee raised a number of questions about the proposed computational biology major, in response to the initial proposal. Margaret McFadden will convey these questions to Bruce Maxwell, and will invite him to meet with the committee to respond to questions and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 27, 4:00 p.m. in DIAM 146.