

Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee

September 27, 2016

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Course proposal subcommittee

The consent agenda of courses approved by the subcommittee was moved and approved:

AR2XX: History of Architecture I

WG3XX: Feminism and Decoloniality

3. Update on the Distribution Requirements Task Force

The motion to establish this task force required the DRTF to provide progress reports to AAC at the end of the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters. So AAC is overdue to have such a report, which will be presented soon. The DRTF is also slated to report to the faculty in March 2017, and any motions for changes they would propose are expected for the April 2017 faculty meeting.

4. Discussion of proposed changes to the Computational Biology major

Professor Bruce Maxwell attended to discuss the details of the proposal. Members of the committee raised a number of questions about the rationale for the shape and design of the major, about the idea behind the focus areas, and about the logistics of housing the program and advising its students. Also a concern was the question of whether such a large major would disadvantage students who don't come with many AP courses. Prof. Maxwell answered all the questions and suggested that a major with 14 courses (instead of 15) would be possible without significant loss for students.

NEXT MEETING: October 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in Diamond 146