

Academic Affairs Committee—December 5, 2017

Present: Steve Saunders, David Freidenreich, Loren McClenahan, Dale Kocevski, Katie Donihue, Beth Schiller, Adrienne Carmack, Jacob Adner, Sam Scott, Jim Sloat, Russ Johnson

I. Minutes from the November 28, 2017 meeting were approved.

II. Formation of a Committee on Academic Schedule

Last spring the AAC recommended to the Faculty Steering Committee that a permanent “Subcommittee on Academic Schedule” be created. The FCS has finally approved that request. Consistent with the AAC’s original recommendation to FCS, the 4 faculty members of the SoAC will be initially appointed by FSC to terms of 1, 1, 2, and 3 years. As the terms of these members expire, their replacements will be chosen by election.

Members of AAC agreed to recommend (to the FSC) that chairs of departments offering a range of course types (e.g. labs, studio courses, language courses, courses meeting 4-5 times per week) be initially appointed to the SoAC.

III. Final Exam Survey – Round 2

At the committee’s request, an email query was sent to faculty members who had initially stated a preference for maintaining the current 4.5 hour final exam block. Out of the 16 respondents, 11 stated that it is very important for them to maintain a 4.5 hour final exam block.

There was some discussion about the possibility of creating an final exam schedule with a few 4.5 hour time blocks (for those who need them), but making the rest of the blocks 3 hours. Because of the need to group classes with the same meeting time into the same exam period, this would prove logistically quite difficult, and would be a lot of extra work for the registrar. As an experiment, Beth and Russ said that were willing to look at the Spring 2018 exam schedule and see if such an arrangement would be possible. There was some discomfort, however, with the idea of trying to implement such a complex new schedule just as a new registrar arrives (fall 2018). It was agreed to table this subject for now, while Beth and Russ do some research.

IV. New Business – there was none

V. January meeting

The committee decided to schedule a single meeting in January. It will be at 4pm Tuesday (of course) on 16 January.