

## **Academic Affairs Committee—February 27, 2018**

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

- I. The minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting were approved.
- II. Consent agenda: three course proposals were approved
  - A. Anthropology 2xx (Oral History Ethnographic Research Lab)
  - B. Computer Science 153 (Computational Thinking:Smart Systems)
  - C. English 3xx (Hang and Rattle: The West in the American Imaginary)

It was noted that several departments are in the process of adding 2-credit courses. The committee felt that approval of such courses should be contingent on the department's having a clear policy on how these courses will be counted toward satisfying major requirements.

### III. Report on Grading for the March Faculty Meeting

The committee then returned its attention to finalizing its report on grading for the March faculty meeting. A draft report (including two motions) was circulated. Discussion of the draft resulted in several modifications to the data presentation (adding in bullet points for clarity) and to the wording of the grading guidelines ("quality" was removed). Choosing the best adjective(s) for describing A-level work in the grading guidelines was an important part of this discussion. In the end, the word "exceptional" was chosen. Suggestions to add additional motions, such as a statement that the Promotion and Tenure Committee should specifically consider adherence to the grading guidelines in their deliberations, were discussed but were not adopted. A motion to adopt the "Report (with two motions) on Grading" was introduced, seconded, and unanimously approved by the committee.

Regarding the most effective way to present the report at the faculty meeting, the committee felt that since our main points are already supported by the graphs in the report itself, we do not need to give a slide show. We should, however, have a few supplementary data slides in reserve in case they needed to address questions. Although the committee had some doubts about whether the two motions would be strictly required to "lay over" before the faculty can vote on them (this is required for changes in "policy"), we felt that laying over would be best from the standpoint of allowing faculty members to fully consider the motions before voting.