

Academic Affairs Committee—October 23, 2018

Present: Sandy Maisel, Steve Saunders, Loren McClenachan, Luke Parker, Lindsey Nelson, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Sam Scott, Sam Lee

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (October 9) were approved.

II. Four course proposals were approved.

- A. Anthropology 2xx (Maine Drug Policy Lab)
- B. Environmental Studies 244 (Marine Communities)
- C. History 2xx (America's Whitest State?) H, U
- D. Religious Studies 2xx (Buddhism: An Introduction) L

A few questions were asked about the optional spring break field trip for the Marine Communities course. Students must pay an extra fee to participate in the field trip, and DavisConnects has agreed to provide considerable support for students who cannot afford to pay, but wish to participate. The deadlines will be set up so that students will know whether they have received funding before the first day of classes.

Russ agreed to have a conversation with Andy McGadney about the availability of funding for courses that require an extra fee. There have been Jan Plan courses with extra fees for a long time, and now there are a few regular semester courses with extra fees associated. The committee expressed some concern about whether DavisConnects can provide enough support to make these courses accessible to all students.

III. Russ reported that he has received additional information from the Jewish Studies Program about their three recently submitted proposals. The proposed Middle East Studies minor is similar to those currently existing at Davidson, Haverford, and Wellesley. Those colleges also do not require Arabic language for the MES minor. Looking at existing Jewish Studies majors at Smith, Trinity, Vassar, and Wellesley, there is considerable variability in the number of core courses included. Some have as many as four (in addition to a Hebrew language requirement), compared to two in the proposal for Colby. We are still awaiting information about the number of students who complete the MES minor and Jewish Studies major at these other schools.