

## **Academic Affairs Committee—October 30, 2018**

Present: Sandy Maisel, Steve Saunders, Loren McClenachan, Dale Kocevski, Luke Parker, Katie Donahue, Lindsey Nelson, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Sam Scott, Sam Lee, Christie Woodside

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (October 23) were approved.

II. Three course proposals were approved.

- A. American Studies 3xx (Race, Gender, and the Graphic Novel) L, U
- B. English 2xx (Fake News and the Rise of the Graphic Novel) Exp, L
- C. English 3xx (Sex, Power, and Performance: Restoration Drama) Exp, L

Steve and Sandy suggested that the committee could review (at a future meeting) the process for reviewing course proposals, as well as the course proposal form itself. The section of the form about assessments is used (obviously) to understand how student work will be assessed in the course, but has also been used to get an idea of the course workload. It is not clear that the questions on the form are well-designed for that purpose, or to what extent the committee should be reviewing the workload within courses. It was agreed that this broader discussion should be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

III. Patrice Franko, Chair of the Subcommittee on Academic Schedule, gave a report on that group's recent efforts to build a "Community Time" into the academic schedule. Patrice pointed out that our faculty is now larger, demographically different, and more geographically distributed than it once was. Many faculty members have more complex family obligations than was once the case. A community time could provide opportunities for faculty meetings, other committee meetings, and for visiting speakers during the regular workday, reducing the need for committee meetings held late in the day and for evening events and speakers that many are unable to attend.

The subcommittee presented two possible scheduling scenarios. The "Simple" schedule, which creates a 90 minute community time each Thursday, and the "Skinny" schedule, which creates a 75 minute community time each Thursday. The Simple schedule reduces the protected "zone" for athletic practices to only two hours (5-7 pm) on Tuesdays and Thursday, while the Skinny schedule causes somewhat less of a zone reduction. In addition to shrinking the zone, an additional consequence of both proposals would be to move some T/R afternoon classes to a later time slot.

It was generally agreed that changing the academic schedule to create a Community time would bring both benefits and costs. These benefits and costs

should be further discussed with relevant stakeholders such as department chairs/program directors, who will have a good sense of how such changes might impact their curricula. The possible implications of shrinking the zone on Tuesday and Thursday will need to be discussed with Athletics. As a first step, the committee requested that the subcommittee present their proposals to the Chairs and Directors meeting next Wednesday (7 November).