

Academic Affairs Committee—January 15, 2019

Present: Steve Saunders, Dale Kocevski, Katie Donahue, Lindsey Nelson, Sam Scott, Amy LoTempio, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Barbara Moore

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (November 27) were approved.

II. Heather Bumps (Associate Secretary of the College) discussed a plan to revise the Colby diploma. The diplomas are currently printed in Latin and are in a rather small format. Many alumni have indicated that they would prefer a larger, more impressive looking, and readable (in English) diploma. Heather showed the committee an example of a new diploma that is being considered. The committee expressed its approval. The proposed new diploma will now be presented to the senior staff.

III. One course proposal was approved.

History 2xx (Game of Thrones: Medieval England and France) H

IV. The committee discussed a set of proposed revisions to the requirements for the Geology major. The department proposes to eliminate the “Geoscience” major, and to reduce the number of classes required for the “Geology” major from 14 to 12. The “cognate” requirement (for classes from other departments that are relevant to Geology) would be reduced from four to two, and would allow more choices. These modifications to the major requirements were recommended by the department’s Spring 2018 Visiting Committee. The AAC voted to approve the proposed changes.

V. Following up on the November 27 meeting, the committee discussed briefly, and then approved, some specific changes to the language of the Course Proposal Form. More options were added to the section on “Methods used to assess the learning goals”. A note was added to mention that it is a standard expectation (both by Colby and by accrediting bodies) to have 2-3 hours of work outside class for each hour of class time. For the question about “Priorities for enrollment”, it will be clearly stated that if no information is provided by the department for this question, then the default priorities of the college will apply.