Academic Affairs Committee—February 12, 2019

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

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (January 15) were approved.

II. Three course proposals were approved.

      Psychology 3xx (Research in Diversity Science)
      Psychology 3xx (Seminar in Diversity Science)
      Psychology 2xx (Social Identities) U

A proposal for Religious Studies 282 (Jews of Germany, Past and Present) was also discussed. This course is proposed to have a rather complex meeting schedule (partially overlapping with RE182) and a complex crediting arrangement – with different amounts of credit depending on whether a student is concurrently enrolled in RE182, and whether the student participates in the spring break trip. The RE282 proposal was sent back for revision, with the request that it stay within the following guidelines:
1. The spring break trip needs to be optional, not required.
2. Since Colby does not award academic credit for work done during spring break (or other breaks), the proposed course cannot rely on work done during spring break to justify the number of credits awarded.

III. Colby's current policy is that a student must have specific permission from the academic advisor and the Dean of Studies to enroll in more than 20 credit hours. Jill Gordon has proposed to the committee that this limit be changed to 18 hours. It is suggested that some students feel the need to "credential" themselves with as many classes as possible and end up over-extending themselves. Preliminary data do not suggest that a large number of students are enrolling in more than 18 credit hours, so it might not be as big of a problem as initially suggested. However, we need to have more complete data in order to fully understand the situation. Lindsey Nelson will prepare a more comprehensive data set for next week, and we will reconsider the question in light of that information.