

Academic Affairs Committee—February 26, 2019

Present: Sandy Maisel, Loren McClenachan, Dale Kocevski, Lindsey Nelson, Katie Donahue, Luke Parker, Russ Johnson

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (February 19) were approved.

II. Report from the Subcommittee on Academic Schedule. At the February faculty meeting the subcommittee presented two possible plans for a common hour in the academic schedule. One plan includes both a Thursday Community Time and a Tuesday Flex time, while the other includes only the Thursday Community Time. A survey has been sent to faculty, soliciting comments on the proposed schedules.

III. Field trip policy. Current policy on field trips (p73 of the Faculty Handbook) addresses the issue of trips that would conflict with a student's obligation to attend another class. At present, there is no written policy about requiring participation in field trips that would take place during a college recess (such as spring break). Because of the potential of such field trips to make a class inaccessible to students who must work or participate in a sports trip during spring break, the committee discussed whether it should be prohibited to have required field trips during a college recess. Some concern was also expressed about the current policy that allows one professor to require a student to be absent from another professor's regularly scheduled class session. Because of the low meeting attendance (and the absence of all student members), the committee deferred any decision-making to a future time.