Academic Affairs Committee—April 21, 2020

Present: Steve Saunders, Erin Sheets, Loren McClanahan, Dale Kocevski, Katie Donahue, Thomas LaJoie, Lukas Alexander, Sam Scott, Genesis Cazales, Lindsey Nelson, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat

(This meeting was conducted by videoconference.)

I. Minutes from the April 14 meeting were approved.

II. Seven course proposals were approved.

AR 4xx (Print and Digital Media VII)
EA 1xx (Nature in East Asian Literature & Culture) L
ED 3xx (The Politics and Policy of Rural and Urban Education) U
EN 2xx (Early African American Literature) L, U
EN 3xx (Energy and Utopia) Exp, L
HI 2xx (Introduction to African History, 1800-1994) H, I
TD 1xx (Boundaries & Margins, Speakers Series)

Consideration of the proposal for ED 3xx (Collaborative Research on Trauma and Education) was postponed pending additional information from the Education program.

III. Updates.
Some updates were provided on additional changes for this “special” semester. As a substitute for CLAS, there will be a website (Sharing Student Scholarship) where departments will have the option to post and share presentations such as those given by senior honors students. Surveys have been conducted of faculty and students to gauge their experiences so far with remote teaching and learning. The results of those surveys will be shared, and can be used to adjust our approach if necessary.

IV. Possible academic scenarios for 2020.
So far, approval of new course proposals, posting of the 2020-21 curriculum, and pre-registration for the fall semester are happening under the assumption of a on-campus fall semester with a normal academic schedule. However, it is not certain that we can host students starting in September, and other scenarios are being considered. These include a delayed start (e.g. October) with no Jan Plan and a regular May finish, a January to August academic year, or a remote fall semester. The decision on this will likely not be made until June. The committee expressed its willingness to be consulted during the summer as decisions affecting academic policy are being made.