College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Minutes  
October 22, 2012

Present: Cynthia Bannon, Sara Friedman, Micheal Berger, Diane Reilly, Eileen Julien, Robert Terrill, Joan Linton, John Hanson, and Ed Hirt.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

With respect to the discussion of FTE transfers in the minutes of October 1, 2012, the Dean’s point was to emphasize that it was the preference of the individual faculty member that initiated the process of applying for a FTE transfer.

The Dean joined the meeting at 4:30.

The committee discussed with the Dean the proposed oversight of several area studies centers under one executive director in the new SGIS structure. The CPC expressed concerns about how that director would be reviewed, by whom, and according to what policy. The CPC emphasized that the migration of centers into SGIS provided an excellent opportunity to review each center’s governance documents.

The Dean provided draft guidelines for postdoctoral compensation related to external fellowships. The guidelines specify that it is the responsibility of the PI to make arrangements prior to the postdoc's applying for the fellowship about how to compensate the postdoc for any loss of IU-provided salary and/or benefits. The Dean will distribute the guidelines for discussion at the November chairs and directors meeting.

The committee discussed with the Dean comments it had received about online teaching evaluations. The Dean replied that his experience with online evaluations had been largely positive at his prior institution, and he noted that online evaluations would still allow departments to include specific questions. The Dean argued that BEST scores are admittedly imperfect measures of teaching success, but participation rates can be improved with an online method of solicitation that is tied to a benefit for the student (such as early release of grades). The CPC expressed concerns about student responsibility in completing the evaluations and possible consequences from making responses to a subset of the universal questions public to the IU community. Because policy on teaching evaluations falls under the mandate of the BFC, faculty concerns should be directed to the Educational Policy Committee of the BFC.

The Dean left the meeting at 5:15. The committee continued drafting the proposed mentoring policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.  
Sara Friedman, recorder