College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Minutes
September 14, 2015

Present: Dale McFadden (chair), Stuart Davis, Peter Guardino, Vivian Halloran, Scott Michaels, Kevin Pilgrim, Julie Van Voorhis, Nick Williams

The meeting was called to order at 4:00. The minutes from August 31 were discussed and approved.

The Committee discussed feedback from the faculty concerning the formation of a new Food Institute within the College. Several colleagues questioned the amount of resources given to this initiative, a question not surprising in the new context of limited resources overall for the College.

Diane Reilly, the Chair of the Department of the History of Art, arrived at 4:25 to discuss the proposed name of the department to Art History. Reilly first provided a bit of context for the name change. Prior to 1995, Art History and Studio Art comprised one unit in the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Art. In 1995 Art History separated from Studio Art, and since then has functioned as a fully independent department, with its own faculty, budget, staff, etc. This separation, however, was never formalized by the College, which has resulted in the use of different names for the same unit. For example, administratively the department is known as Fine Arts-History, but the name of the major is History of Art. The approval by the Board of Trustees of the new School of Art and Design, of which art history will not be a part, has necessitated the recoding of the department’s course offerings and offered the opportunity for the department to change its name to Art History. This change will make the department more recognizable to students, as it is the name most commonly used in other universities and for the AP exam in the field. In response to a question by the Committee, Reilly affirmed the department’s commitment to offering courses that are requirements or of interest to Studio Art students. Reilly left the meeting at 4:45.

The Committee continued its discussion of the Food Institute, noting that the Committee for Undergraduate Committee (CUE) wants to begin work vetting the curriculum. The CPC was concerned that the Food Institute appeared to be administratively heavy and thought that the administrative structure should be more in line with comparable units.

Executive Dean Larry Singell joined the meeting at 5:10. Singell expressed his support of Art History’s name change. The CPC anonymously shared the faculty’s responses to the Food Institute proposal, including its own concerns about the administrative structure. The Dean responded that after the Institute is established and running, in two or three years, the administrative structure would revert to that used by comparable units.
The Dean then discussed the role of the CPC in approving the salary and equity review committee that is advisory to the Dean, as required by the BFC.

The Dean left the meeting at 5:30. The meeting adjourned at 5:35.

Julie Van Voorhis, recorder