

General Faculty Meeting
First Winter Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 12:50pm-1:45pm
Olin 115

AGENDA

1. Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty Representative on the AAC
(document attached: Agenda Item 1)

This proposal was introduced to the faculty at the second fall General Faculty Meeting held on November 3, 2015. As it is an amendment to the governance system it was circulated a minimum of thirty days before taking a vote.

2. President Stephen Ainlay reporting on upcoming budget discussions.
3. Diane Blake, VP for Administration and Finance, reporting on budgetary matters.
4. Matt Malatesta, VP for Admissions, Financial Aid and Enrollment, reporting on enrollment matters.

Agenda Item 1

Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty Representative on the AAC September 28, 2015

The AAC proposes changing the first sentence of Section IV.A of the Faculty Constitution, which describes the membership of the AAC. The text to be changed is in italics.

The current language is as follows:

The Academic Affairs Council shall have as voting members five faculty representatives (one to be elected by each of the four Divisions, with one other to be elected by the General Faculty *at large*) and three students (full-time, day-time undergraduates to be appointed by the Student Committee on Committees or its equivalent).

The proposed language is as follows:

The Academic Affairs Council shall have as voting members five faculty representatives (one to be elected by each of the four Divisions, with one other to be elected by the General Faculty *to represent Interdisciplinary Studies Programs*) and three students (full-time, day-time undergraduates to be appointed by the Student Committee on Committees or its equivalent).

Discussion:

The AAC believes that altering the composition of faculty representation on the AAC will facilitate its efforts to support and develop Interdisciplinary Studies Programs at Union and to correctly evaluate academic policies and procedures that have the potential to impact these Programs. In particular, having an Interdisciplinary Studies faculty representative on the AAC will tend to 1) increase the flow of information to the AAC regarding issues of importance to IS Programs and 2) increase the weight given to the interests of IS Program participants in AAC votes. The current structure of faculty representation on the AAC allows us to add an IS faculty representative without increasing the overall burden of faculty service.

Starting in fall of 2013, the AAC has had a standing invitation for the Director of IS to attend our meetings. While this arrangement provides the AAC greater access to information regarding IS Programs, as a guest, the DIS does not vote on issues before the AAC. We believe an IS faculty representative with voting rights is necessary to give IS issues appropriate weight in AAC decisions. Note that the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies is a faculty member and, as such, is eligible to be elected to serve on the AAC as the representative of IS Programs.

Below, we provide a list of particular areas of academic policy on which the AAC has needed IS input to make appropriately informed decisions.

Regular AAC business:

- Department external reviews, particularly for departments with extensive participation in IS Programs
- Tenure Line Retention Requests
- Staffing requests (visitors, lecturers, adjuncts, etc.)
- Curricular changes that directly impact ISPs as well as the common curriculum
- Proposals to change existing majors and minors or approve new majors and minors
- Approval of new courses, particularly courses that contribute to an ISP
- Addressing student concerns brought forward to the AAC

Recent policy issues:

- Rating of new tenure track position proposals
- Loading policy reform

Implementation: If approved, the AAC plans to implement this change in the spring of 2016.