

Council on Academic Affairs
Report to the University Senate
26 May 2011
J. Cogdell

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council on Academic Affairs makes recommendations to the university senate concerning educational and academic policies, including the establishment, alteration and abolition of all curricula and courses offered by the university, all degrees and certificates conferred by the university, and of all colleges, departments, and schools. All proposals for the establishment, alteration or abolition of courses and curricula, of departments, schools, and divisions within a college, and of academic degrees flow through CAA. Among its other duties, CAA fosters interdisciplinary programs involving two or more academic areas and periodically reviews the academic organization of the university.

2. MEMBERSHIP 2010–2011

Leslie Alexander, History
Niraj Antani, USG
Marilyn Blackwell, Germanic Languages and Literature
James Cogdell, Mathematics (co-chair)
Sarah Douglas, CGS
John Fellingham, Business
Sean Fitzpatrick, USG
Jay Hobgood, Geography (co-chair)
Ashok Krishnamurthy, Engineering
Sarah Lang, CGS
Barbara Polivka, Nursing
Randy Smith, OAA
Robert Ward, Music
John Wilkins, Physics
Kay Wolf, Allied Medical Professions

3. STRUCTURE

The Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) traditionally has three subcommittees, A, B, and C, that vet the proposals that come to CAA, as well as a Subcommittee D consisting of the Chair and the OAA representative which plans the meetings and handles smaller proposals. There are also ad-hoc committees formed as needed. This year the subcommittees are chaired by

A: Leslie Alexander
B: Marilyn Blackwell

C: Kay Wolf

In addition we have two ad-hoc committees to consider proposals for the formation of University Centers:

Establishment of a Center for Aviation Studies
 Establishment of a Center for RNA Biology

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

The major proposals that come through CAA often come to the Senate as well. This year the following proposals were brought to the Senate by CAA:

- Creation of a Department of Plastic Surgery
- Establishment of an Educational Specialist Degree in Teaching and learning
- Name change for the Department of Women's Studies
- Established of tagged Masters Degree in Plant Health Management
- Establishment of a Clinical/Practitioner track in the School of Communications
- Establishment of a Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity
- Merger of the Departments of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology with Molecular Genetics into a new department "Molecular Genetics"
- Establishment of the masters of mathematical Sciences degree program
- Establishment of the Rural Sociology graduate programs as specializations within the School of Environment and natural Resources
- Name change for the Department of Ophthalmology to the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences.

There were also numerous other items that came through CAA but did not need to come to the Senate, such as

- Creation of the Interdisciplinary BA in Sexuality Studies.
- Creation of a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Biomedical Clinical and Translational Science.
- Creation of a Dual MBA and Masters of Environment and Natural Resources.

5. SEMESTER CONVERSION

As CAA oversees all changes in academic programs in the University, this year we will review the Semester Conversion proposals for every academic programs in the University.

To handle the workload, we have done several things

- CAA has two co-chairs this year, Jay Hobgood and Jim Cogdell, to serve on Subcommittee D with Randy Smith and to help with the vetting semester conversion proposals as well as a few remaining quarter proposals.

- We have essentially doubled the size of the other subcommittees by adding additional faculty, students, curricular deans and members of the graduate council. These added members meet with the subcommittees to help vet proposals, but they do not participate in the CAA deliberations. These enhanced subcommittees have further broken up into smaller working groups to review individual proposals and feed information back to the subcommittee as a whole for review and then to CAA as a whole.
- The CAA has gone from meeting twice a month to meeting every week beginning mid February when the semester conversion proposals began to flow in. We have had one four hour meeting so far and will probably have more. We will continue to meet until we have vetted all proposals. Our deadline is July 1.

The University has a large number of academic programs to be reviewed. Some have come forward with minimal changes, but many units have taken this opportunity to re-envision their programs. For conversion, CAA pays particular attention to the transition plans for those students that will begin on quarters but finish on semesters.

The College of Engineering began the process, bringing their common core to us in the summer and then the BA in Civil Engineering, and three others, on December 1. Since then we have approved over 200 semester conversion proposals from Colleges throughout the University.

Besides reviewing specific conversion proposals, CAA has received updates from the CIO on implementing semester changes in the IT structure and from the Registrar on the Semester Calendar for CAA comment. We also reviewed and commented on semester based changes to the University Rules that impinged on Academic issues.

6. RECOGNITION

The members of CAA have been working incredibly hard this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank them all. I particularly want to thank the subcommittee chairs Leslie Alexander, Marilyn Blackwell, and Kay Wolf, who have been instrumental in shepherding things through. We owe them all a great deal of gratitude for taking time from their teaching and scholarly activities to help get the University through this crucial period.