Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026

Time: 10:30 am - 11:35 am

Location: Library, Room 141

Attendees: David Rohrbacher, Rob Zamsky, David Harvey, Amy Clore,Will Hustwit, Ryan Buyssen, Joe Moore, Marta Moreno, John Park, Melinda Ball

Fall Contract & Evaluation Deadlines (ML/DR)

- The Provost Office announced that the Fall evaluation deadline will be December 16th and the contract deadline will be December 17th. Please advise faculty of the new dates.

Priority Registration for 4th Years

- Beginning next semester, priority registration will be given to fourth year students.
- All division chairs support this decision.
- The Registrar's office reported that 25% of students are receiving priority registration.
- There was discussion regarding communication going out about priority registration becoming available to 4th year students at the end of October.
- It was determined to open the registration to seniors on October 30, 2026.

Cumbersome Process for Students to Spend SRTG Funds (AC)

- Natural Science students are unable to just buy what they need due to the specialized items needed in labs. The process for these students is cumbersome and outdated.
- It was determined that the Natural Science team should discuss the challenges they are facing with Christie and Jean to determine a possible solution.
- Discussion occurred about what the current process is and how it is being funded.

Action Item: Invite Mitch to attend the next AAC Meeting to discuss the SRTG funds.

Update on the STEM labs and space allocation (AC)

- Discussion occurred about the division's wet lab needs and if there is an update on north campus' labs.
- The STEM building is being completed near the Viking buildings and should be available by the end of the calendar year.
- It has not been determined where the wet labs will be allocated.

Protocol for External ISPs (RB)

- Discussion occurred regarding improving the process of external ISPs conflicting with current ISPs and the lack of input provided by faculty.
- It was agreed that a process needs to be implemented to include faculty input, feedback and suggestions.

Follow up on Socratic Experience (RB)

- Discussion of prerequisites and student recruitment for the Socratic Experience entailed.
- New Student Programs provided an update on recruitment and how they are marketing the program.
- Currently, the determining factor on who is being recruited has been those who would thrive in the Socratic Experience environment, every student who took classes over the summer, and the top 20% of the cohorts.
- This program should not be an honors program and needs to be marketed to all first year students.
- The student recruitment will pick up in the spring and will focus on all first year students.
- Discussion continued regarding faculty and EPC approval of the program.
- The EPC has the freedom to review the program and provide recommendations but not approval.
- The desire to have the Socratic Experience be more flexible for other students besides first years and offering a second section that will enable those students to participate was expressed.