Called to order around 4:10


Very, very late: Michael Martin

Previous minutes: because the acting secretary submitted them so late, we voted to approve the minutes, authorizing Joe Q. to make any necessary changes.

Appeals: total of three appeals this year, one of a professor's grade and two of deans' decisions.

Honors: David Quigley.

An edited version of the grade compression report was distributed to chairs who are to discuss it with their departments and submit feedback by the end of October 2005.

Joe Quinn is working with Kelly Armstrong of the Institutional Research office, to set up a system to produce grade reports on an annual basis so that we can monitor trends in grade compression/inflation.

Ourida M. pointed out that the Deans List needs to be modified to raise the GPAs required for different degrees of honors. Joe Quinn responded that the honors subcommittee would submit recommendations next year for any changes in policy with respect to required GPAs.

The honors subcommittee continues to research what can and should be recognized on transcripts. This question arose with respect to departmental honors designations.

Finally, David Q. reported that five students have submitted proposals for an Independent Major called Studies in American Race and Ethnicity for approval by the honors subcommittee. He noted that these were submitted late, the deadline being March 1. He also said that some of the students might not have the required GPAs of 3.5

Tina C. noted that these were all sophomores. This Independent Major viewed as a "pilot project" for an Ethnic Studies major.

Ourida M. noted that students are expected to go through the dean's office and that March 1 is a real deadline that ought to be respected. She has not allowed some students to submit petitions after that deadline, and questions why others ought to be allowed to ignore it.
Joe Burns said that no IM's could be approved until after the honors subcommittee is reconstituted next year, and that in the meanwhile, any petitions should be dealt with by the sophomore class dean.

Catherine S. said that the minimum GPA threshold should be enforced.

Joe Burns responded that 3.5 is the minimum GPA for truly independent majors. For IMs that already exist and have an advising structure in place (like Black Studies), 3.0 has generally been the required minimum.

Adjourned: 5:20

[Jennie's final note to Michael: block the proliferation of "independent" majors!!]