MEMBERS.


ABSENT: Andrea DeFusco-Sullivan, Evan Henrich, Sr. Mary Daniel O'Keeffe, Kelly Tressler, Christopher Young.

CALL TO ORDER: Dean Quinn called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes from September 28th, 2006 were approved with corrections from Clare Dunsford, Cathy Schneider, and James Najarian.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Dean Quinn introduced the proposal for an interdisciplinary major in Islamic Cultures. Stating that the college has very few such majors Quinn noted that this proposal could be viewed as a template for future program proposals.

ISLAMIC CULTURES: Michael Graff outlined the proposal noting that the major would require twelve courses in four basic disciplines

- Political Science
- Fine Arts
- Theology
- History.

He added that the major would also carry a language requirement which could be met in several languages besides Arabic.

Graff stated that the strengths of the proposal lay in the outstanding faculty and demonstrated student interest. He noted that the proposal needed more specifics listing several outstanding questions

- degree of departmental support,
- faculty time to teach the courses
- the shape of the proposed program compared to those at other schools,
• total number of courses required –
  o 12 courses
  o language proficiency
  o and a senior thesis.

Graff closed noting that the proposal had been sent back for revisions along with these questions and the suggestion that the number of associated electives be pared down.

James Najarian asked which languages would be used and whether the language departments had the staff to teach them. Dean Quinn stated that
• the college now offered three years of Arabic
• adding that students could take appropriate languages at other area colleges and abroad.
Quinn also noted that study abroad was not mandatory. Michael Martin noted that this represented a heavy course load for the students and faculty.

Graff responded that the committee had asked that the list of languages actually be expanded. Harry Rosser stated that Old Spanish would be included. Joe Burns commented that because the languages were heavily dependent on the part time budget the proposal needed to include specific staffing requests and costs.

Dean Quinn asked about the consequences for the faculty of a senior thesis requirement. Graff responded stated that admissions to the Islamic Studies Program would be limited by an application during the second semester of the freshman year and the thesis could be done as a capstone course.

Cathy Schneider asked what the administrative structure of this program would be. Dean Quinn responded that there would be a Director and a faculty advisory committee. Cynthia Lyerly, noting that the departments were already stretched by course reductions and interdisciplinary minor requirements, asked if course in Islamic Studies would be staffed by
• regular course reductions,
• as overloads,
• or by part time faculty.
Graff responded that there were as yet no actual statements of support from the departments.

Dean Quinn stated that Islamic Studies would be a new major program noting that the college did not yet have regular mechanisms for establishing, supporting and measuring the performance of interdisciplinary programs. He added that the very successful International Studies Program was begun as a three year pilot and provided an excellent model for new interdisciplinary programs. He closed by noting that the college should be doing regular reviews of all interdisciplinary programs.

REVIEW OF INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS: Akua Sarr reported on the ongoing reviews of interdisciplinary minors stating that they faced and increasing challenge of
visibility especially with the founding of new interdisciplinary majors. She outlined the review process stating that the deans received a report from the various directors detailing:

- faculty involvement
- course offerings
- curricular structure and initiatives
- budget
- and co-curricular activities.

She added that she was currently writing profiles for each program.

Jame Najarian asked if any of these programs were failing. Michael Graff noted that:

- while some interdisciplinary minors wanted to become majors
- most were stable as minors
- and only a few seemed to be shrinking.

Dean Quinn asked if there were any consistent needs of these interdisciplinary minors and stated that each program should provide enrollment figures over time to measure student interest. He also noted that the office of interdisciplinary programs would be hiring a staff person to help with this.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dean Quinn adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.