Minutes of the Academic Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2013

86 Wentworth Street, EHHP Dean’s Conference Room 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Those present: Bob Perkins (chair), John Curtis (SGA Academic Affairs Liaison), Shawn Morrison, Jeff Yost, George Pothering, David Moscowitz, Linda Jones and Lynne Ford. Visitors included Dan Greenberg, chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee, Renee McCauley and George Pothering from Computer Science, and Beth Meyer-Bernstein from the Biology Department.

Professor Beth Meyer-Bernstein attended the meeting to answer questions about the Neuroscience Program proposal. The program has been reviewed by the biology, physics and psychology department curriculum committees and two deans. A concern about continued funding of the teacher training fellows was raised. The fellows are essentially supplemental instruction leaders and are currently funded by an HHMI grant at $4,000 per fellow. Prof Meyer Bernstein intends to include this expense in the budget because she feels they are essential to the students’ success in the program.

Professor Renee McCauley joined the meeting to answer questions about the planning proposal for a combined (accelerated) BS/ MS in computer science. A concern was raised about the possibility of disadvantaging our own students who may take a graduate course while registered as an undergraduate. The courses will not translate to graduate credit if the students enroll in a master’s program here at the College whereas a student from another college would not be limited in that regard. A second concern was the heavy work load as students take undergrad and graduate courses in the senior year. It was pointed out that the students who are accepted into this program will be exceptional.

The committee voted unanimously to support the BS/MS Program Proposal in Computer Science.