1. The Minutes from March 15, 2013, were approved.

2. Deborah Mihal’s Presentation regarding Foreign Languages Alternatives issue:

Deborah Mihal, Director of Snap for the past two and a half years, explained how the Master List of alternative courses to language study (for students with learning disabilities) is supposed to be reviewed every three years. Each semester Snap creates a list of courses offered each semester (courses offered three years on a one-time basis are not included. They sometimes add courses offered in special topics). However, it has not been reviewed since 2005. She asked how FCAS would like to proceed with amendments.

Lynn Cherry observed that in order to find out all the specific criteria that was first used to select courses we would have to go back to the late seventies. Departments were asked at that point in time what courses were appropriate as a language alternative. There has always been negotiation.
She recalled that, in either the eighties or nineties, Bobby Lindstrom brought the Master List to FCAS to periodically review it and the same rationale was used at that time. Because there are so many departments, the criteria had to be very clear and that is why there is a need for FCAS to review it.

J. Bowring asked how can FCAS review it if we do not know the courses. Why not send it to department Chairs instead?

L. Cherry responded that it is the Director of Snap that reviews those courses and then FCAS gives an oversight of the process.

D. Mihal clarified that it is the overall procedure, the overall process, that FCAS needs to review.

Following this clarification, FCAS went over the wording in bold of the Master list: D. Mihal asked that the word “advisor” be replaced by “Snap administrator” and the the phone number be removed as well; D. Mihal also suggested that a bullet point #4 be added (“the student must consult with an administrator from Snap”); It was also suggested that “the alternative to language study program” be replaced with “the foreign language requirement”; the last bullet in last page needs to be changed as well: right now it says that after taking Span 190, students need to take 12 more credit in foreign language when in reality they only need to take two more courses since Span 190 is a class for high beginners of Spanish. The Snap office is having difficulty with the Registrar’s office so D. Mihal will come back with changes in verbiage to address this particular issue; Deborah also talked about the need to get more math alternative courses and wants FCAS to agree on approving two additional courses permanently.

L. Cherry added that all changes approved need to go to the Senate because it is a curricular oversight issue, both for adding and removing courses.

R. Swickert commented that she is comfortable with reviewing the wording but regarding the approval of the rationale for approving courses she would rather defer to the Snap office, since they are the experts. D. Mihal reassured her that FCAS only conducts the oversight of the process.

J. Bowring asked Deborah to provide a copy of the last approved version (2005) with all of the changes she proposes marked on it, to include dropped and added courses, changes to the requirements, and the new math/computer science change. This way FCAS will have a record of how we got to the 2013 proposal (from 2005) and have a starting point for our deliberations to approve and/or modify. His intent is that we will file a FYI with the Faculty Senate.

D. Mihal will finalize the criteria for alternative courses to Math so that FCAS can use it for the additional courses that Snap is asking to be added. Finally she wanted to let FCAS know that her office is piloting Snap Math 103 but that they will not necessarily need approval by FCAS.
Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lola Colomina-Garrigós
Secretary