Faculty committee for Academic Planning
Report 2016-2017 Academic year

Members for the 2016/2017 academic year
- Agnes Southgate, Biology Chair
- Mary Ann Blitt, Hispanic Studies
- Kathleen DeHaan, Communication
- Todd Grantham, Philosophy
- Deborah Jeter, Mathematics
- Robert Pitts, Management and Marketing
- Jolanda VanArnhem, Library

Meetings were held on the following days, typically one hour
September 23rd, October 3rd, October 21st, November 4th. The meetings on November 18th and December 2nd were cancelled due to no agenda.

February 7th, February 20th, and May 10th. Meetings originally scheduled for March 14th, 28th, and April 10th were cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

The following proposals were presented to the AP committee for discussion. Our role on any of these items was entirely advisory. There was no proposal, which was voted on by the AP committee and consequently forwarded to Senate for approval.

Major GPA calculation
Most of the Fall 2016 meetings were devoted to the discussion surrounding the calculation of the major GPA, in consultation with the Provost office (Brian McGee and Lynn Cherry) and the joint committee (from Academic Standards and Curriculum committees, as well as the RO).

Several options were initially discussed cumulating in the final proposal put forward by the Faculty Committee on Academic Standards. The AP committee supported the proposal, which was presented for Senate discussion and approved at the December Senate meeting.

New bridge program with Trident Technical College
Meeting 11/4
Absent Todd Grantham, Kathleen deHaan and Deborah Jeter
Initial presentation by Provost McGee. Discussion followed on the goals of the programs, as well as issues and advantages of the program from the students’ perspective.

Addition to the Bachelor of Professional Studies meeting with Godfrey Gibbison
Meeting 2/20
Absent Jolanda Van Arnhem and Kathleen DeHaan.

Presentation by Godfrey Gibbison on new tracks being developed.

“Original request from Godfrey Gibbison
Dear Agnes,
I would like an opportunity to meet with the Academic Planning Committee to discuss a development with the Bachelor of Professional Studies. The immediate topic is the addition of a concentration in Applied Legal Studies to the Bachelor of Professional Studies program. Here’s a brief primer. Last spring, the paralegal studies faculty at Trident Tech approached me with the suggestion that the addition of a legal studies concentration to the BPS would suit the needs of their students who complete the associate’s degree in paralegal studies. Their rationale is that law firms are increasingly requiring a bachelor’s degree as the minimum qualification for legal assistants and paralegals. Following that conversation I met with a number of local law firms and learned, consistent with the report of the TTC faculty, that law firms value the four-year degree, primarily for the advanced skills in research and writing, advanced critical thinking skills and strong communication skills. I now have a curriculum and a number of prospective adjunct faculty who are interested in developing and teaching the relevant courses, and I would have proceeded with the proposal in the usual manner except for one twist with this proposal. TTC students complete a 69 hour curriculum in order to earn an associate’s degree in paralegal studies. This program is accredited by the American Bar Association, which follows rigorous accreditation standards. An essential part of making this idea workable is that students will be able to earn transfer credit at the College for some portion of the 39 hours of law-related course work completed at TTC. The lingering problem is that there is no natural department at the College that could evaluate these courses for transfer, which is the tradition at the College up to now. Until the College has a clear theory of transfer, which would clarify how we proceed in cases where the transfer discipline has no natural home at the College, but the transfer discipline has a natural fit within BPS, a workaround is needed so that BPS can serve the needs of these students, as it was intended to do.”
Committee discussed the curriculum proposed for the new Applied Legal Studies program, with a special emphasis on preserving the existing “General Education” requirements for the BPS. The committee was assured that there are no changes in the overall BPS program design.

The committee was overall supportive of the new Applied Legal Studies track, feeling that it would be attractive to professionals and employers in this field.

**Bachelor of General Studies**  
Meeting 2/7 Presentation by Lynn Cherry

Presentation of the current proposal prepared by the faculty task force chaired by Godfrey Gibbison.

Committee discussed the main issue of expanding the availability of online courses for students to complete one or both minors in the context of the new proposal. Issues of faculty interest and the need for increased technical support and upfront funding were raised, as well as the difficulty for some courses (e.g. science labs) to be offered online. The committee was not overly opposed to the proposal, but felt that its implementation might be difficult. The number of students who could be “recaptured” with this proposal remains a concern for the committee.

**Joint Graduate program with the Citadel**  
At the last meeting on May 10th, discussion of the Joint Graduate program with the Citadel was introduced to the committee with Provost McGee.

A new chair for the 2017/2018 was elected. Dr. Robert Pitts