African and African American Studies

Minutes of Meeting on 01/16/2013

Committee members present: Laura Murphy (Chair- English), Charles Corprew (Psychology), Ashley Howard (History), Anthony Ladd (Sociology), Judith Hunt (History), Barbara Ewell (English), and Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sociology).

Dr. Murphy began the meeting welcoming new committee members and updating committee member status (Andre Perry (Institute for Quality and Equity in Education) has expressed interest in being affiliated with AAAS; Maurice Brundgart (History) has resigned from the committee; Sue Mennino (Sociology) is also no longer a member of AAAS.

Patrick has updated the website, so committee members are encouraged to check out their bios, etc, to make sure they are current and accurate.

A list of current minors was distributed (there are eight); it was only half-jokingly suggested that we compete to recruit the most minors (Ashley Howard is in the lead)! “Request/Drop a Minor” forms were distributed to interested faculty so that we could take them to our classes and have interested students fill them out.

Laura Murphy has created a Blackboard site which includes every student enrolled in a class designated as part of the AAAS minor, AAAS faculty, and declared AAAS minors. This can be used to announce lectures and other such “Life of the Mind” events. Martin Luther King, Jr., Week for Peace events were announced through this.

Budget – there is $700.00 remaining in the budget (after approval to support Uwen Akpan (Feb. 18th) and the lecture by sociologist Matthew Hughey (April 29; being brought to campus by Kathleen Fitzgerald)). Committee members are encouraged to submit appropriate requests for the remaining funds.

Old Business concerning the invoice for the Black Power Mix Tape was addressed. Laura Murphy spoke to Katherine Fidler about the film, hoping for some resolution. With no firm answer, it was decided that we would pay the invoice out of our budget.

New Business:

A lengthy discussion involving the criteria for AAAS course approval ensued. Laura Murphy passed out the Women Studies Curriculum Committee criteria as an example and a starting point for our discussion. There was some discussion of having a foundations course, as Environmental Studies and Women Studies do, but it was agreed that while it is a laudable long-term goal to have, as a program we are not ready for that. Dr. Murphy will draft the criteria suggestions and send them around to the committee for comments/revisions.
We need to update the website and the minor check-off list of degree requirements for the AAAS minor – so everyone is encouraged to send their already approved courses to Laura Murphy to make sure they are included in the bulletin. Also, should some courses be added to the minor? Should some be removed?

It was agreed to approve the John Levendis course so that Rachel Sayers could have it count toward her AAAS minor. Levendis has not requested that his course count toward the AAAS minor; thus, this was a one-time approval to meet the needs of a student.

The final note of business involved discussion of an on-campus “student mixer,” perhaps on a Friday afternoon, with punch and cookies, as a way to build community among faculty and students in the AAAS program.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen J. Fitzgerald