

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 4 p.m.  
Faculty Room – University Hall  
Tea from 3:30 to 3:55 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Secretary's Business
- II. Memorial Minutes
  1. On behalf of the Committee to prepare the Minute on the life and service of the late Frank Henry Westheimer, *Morris Loeb Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus*, Professor Emeritus E. Corey will present an abridged version of the Minute to the Faculty.
  2. On behalf of the Committee to prepare the Minute on the life and service of the late John Kenneth Galbraith, *Paul M. Warburg Professor of Economics, Emeritus*, Professor B. Friedman will present an abridged version of the Minute to the Faculty.
- III. Dean's Business
- IV. President's Business
- V. Question Period
- VI. New Business
- VII. Docket Committee Report
- VIII. Docket Items
  1. Continued discussion of docket item 2 from the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2007  
Professor J. L. Matory moved:  
  
That this Faculty commits itself to fostering civil dialogue in which people with a broad range of perspectives feel safe and are encouraged to express their reasoned and evidence-based ideas.  
  
Explanatory Note:  
  
The context for this motion is outlined in an opinion piece by Professor Matory, "Israel and Censorship at Harvard," which was published in the *Harvard Crimson* on September 14, 2007.

Dean M. Shinagel will move to substitute the following:

That the Faculty reaffirm the guidelines set down in its 1990 legislation concerning freedom of speech.

2. Dean R. Lue will move:

That the list of courses contained in the preliminary announcement of the Summer School of Arts and Sciences and of Education for 2008\* be approved, and that the Dean of the Summer School be empowered to make, with the approval of the Dean of the Faculty, any corrections and any late changes that might be required in the list of courses contained in the preliminary announcement of the Summer School of Arts and Sciences and of Education for 2008.

3. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Pedagogical Improvement, Dean D. Pilbeam will move:

1. That beginning with the spring term of 2008, course evaluation be conducted for all courses with five or more enrolled students; and
2. That beginning with the spring term of 2008, the course evaluation period be extended beyond the examination period and concluded before grades are released; and
3. That students enrolled in courses offered by this Faculty be expected to participate in the evaluation process; and
4. That final course grades be made available early to students who have submitted their course evaluations.

Explanatory Note:

1. This recommendation is supported by the Committee on Pedagogical Improvement after further discussion in light of the faculty's previous referral of the matter. It is consonant with the January 2007 report of the Task Force on Teaching and Career Development; in their words, "allowing even a minority of faculty course heads to 'opt out' undercuts the validity of the course evaluation system for the majority." (p. 38) The members of the Committee on Pedagogical Improvement believe that the only valid reason for a course not to be evaluated is an enrollment so small that it might compromise the anonymity of the respondents.
2. The faculty and student members of the Committee on Pedagogical Improvement believe that the final examination is an integral part of a course, and that complete evaluation of the course requires including the examination. It is also expected that extending the deadline for completing course evaluations will increase student participation in the process
3. The expectation that students will participate in course evaluations seems appropriate to the faculty and student members of the Committee on Pedagogical Improvement. Even though no provision for enforcement is currently proposed, the explicit expression of such expectation has proved effective at other institutions.

4. If a student's final grade for a course has been received and confirmed by the Registrar, it will be released to the student shortly after his or her course evaluations are submitted. If the grade has not yet been received and confirmed by the Registrar when the student submits his or her evaluations, the grade will be released shortly after it has been received and confirmed.
4. Dean T. Skocpol will report on a number of issues affecting the Graduate School, including funding enhancement for Ph.D. students.
5. On behalf of the Faculty Council, Dean T. Skocpol will move:

That the President be requested to appoint a Standing Committee on Higher Degrees in Film and Visual Studies, and that the Committee be authorized to admit and recommend candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Film and Visual Studies,

and

That the program will operate in accord with GSAS policies in regard to admissions, academic requirements, discipline, and tuition and financial aid and that it be reviewed by the Faculty Council within five years of its inception.

Explanatory Note:

The proposal is for a new PhD program in Film and Visual Studies, that will build on Harvard's long tradition of studying cinema through the cultural, visual, spatial, and philosophical questions it raises. The graduate program will be interdisciplinary in its approach, and will consolidate present course offerings in Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) and in a large number of other FAS departments ranging from Anthropology to Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The proposed PhD program will benefit from its relationship to the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts and the Harvard Film Archive, and will foster awareness of the interactions between the making of and thinking about film and video, between studio art, performance, and visual culture and between different arts and pursuits whose objects are aural-visual entities.

The objective of the new doctoral program is to provide rigorous training in film and visual studies that offers a combination of theoretical, analytical, and historical coverage while drawing on the interdisciplinary strength of the FAS course offerings, the Harvard Film Archive's holdings of films and documents, and the resources of the Harvard museums, galleries and libraries.

For over a decade, film and visual studies has been a steadily growing academic field as measured by the number of students pursuing post-graduate study and by the strength of the job market for PhDs with training in this field. Students graduating from this program should have excellent job opportunities both in traditional film departments and in a broad range of humanities departments as well as in fields ranging from journalism to arts management.

The proposed PhD program will be housed in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) and will be supervised by a Director of Graduate Studies. The faculty of the proposed program will include members of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies as well as faculty associated with film and visual studies from other FAS departments.

Resources for the program are expected to come primarily from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

#### THE DOCKET COMMITTEE

\* Faculty members who wish to see the preliminary announcement of the Harvard Summer School may do so at the Summer School office, 51 Brattle Street.

Note: Information about Faculty business can be found at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~secfas/>.