Minutes of the Meeting of the Undergraduate Council
October 15, 2012

Present: Janet Clarke, Jennifer Dellaposta, Arlene Feldman, Sarah Fuller, Jeff Ge, Kane Gillespie, Norm Goodman, Ellen Hopkins, Peter Khost, Anna Lubitz, Joe Mitchell, Anne Moyer, Jean Peden, Peter Stephens, Scott Sutherland.

Minutes of October 8, 2012
Accepted with minor corrections.

Issues discussed:
This was a special meeting called to discuss aspects of the proposed new general education requirement.

I. Discussion of changing the name of the TASS category. After some discussion, the committee approved “Science and Technology in Society and the Arts.” Other revisions in the description of that category were also accepted.

II. The council discussed a draft memo from David Ferguson (Chair, Department of Technology and Society) to Dean Yacov Shamash re impact of the new general education proposals on the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS). This draft memo was provided to the council for discussion, but as far as we know, it is not a finished document. It makes the following statements.

A. The CEAS Teaching and Policy Committee has sole authority for setting curriculum requirements within that college.

B. The proposed new gen. ed. is not credit neutral, at least for students in CAES.

C. The memo suggests the following two changes to the new gen. ed. framework.

   1. TASS (now STSA) should move to category I.

   2. TASS (now STSA) should be converted into a requirement for technology, with no relation to society.

This led to a discussion of the implications of the suggestions. The council’s interpretation was that this would basically allow science and technology-based students to use courses in their major for all of the category II “plus” requirements, and remove any requirement for anybody to take a course on the links between science / technology and society.

The meeting continued with further discussion of ways to accommodate requirements of engineering degrees into the new gen. ed. system. There was discussion of the desirability & feasibility of maintaining a single general education requirement for all students on the campus. It was noted that, out of fifty AAU universities polled, only fifteen have a universal general education requirement.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Stephens