

**Minutes**  
**Joint Meeting of**  
**Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs and**  
**Curriculum and Instruction Committees**  
**February 12, 2009**

**Present (FA):** Bill Crossland, Poco Kernsmith, Marycay Sengstock

**Present (SA):** Cheryl Dove, Barbara Jones, Michele Ronnick, Brad Roth, Anthony Sacco, Mary Width, Victoria Dallas, William Slater, James Gale, and Naida Simon

**Present (C&I):** Hans Hummer, Tyrone Austin, Alfred Cobbs, Karen Feathers, Andre Furtado, Jerry Ku, James Moseley, Anca Vlasopolos

**Absent with Notice (FA):** Kingsley Browne, Stephen Calkins, Allen Goodman, Patricia Jaroz, Loreleigh Keashly, Carlos McMath, Karur Padmanabhan, Regina Parnell, Aleksandar Popadic, Elizabeth Puscheck, Susil Putatunda, Louis Romano, Jianjun Wang

**Absent with Notice (SA):** Doreen Head, James Martin, Renee Van Stavern

**Absent with Notice (C&I):** Monica Brockmeyer, Christopher Collins

**Guests:** Dean Ralph Kummler and Associate Dean Gerald Thompkins, College of Engineering

The committees questioned Deans Kummler and Thompkins about the Center of Academic Excellence (CAE). The deans answered questions concerning the following issues:

1. Is there a core faculty—No
2. What is the purpose of the staff—To serve as advisors to the students in the CAE. The advisors for the students are Dean Thompkins and a person hired by the grant to do the advising.
3. How many students are in the program—40.
4. Does the grant support faculty—For year one, the answer was yes, but not anymore.
5. Concerns were expressed that faculty involved with the CAE could lose contact/resources etc. in other countries because this was seen as a CIA/DOD program.
6. It was pointed out that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (the organization under whose auspices the CAE is organized) states that “CAE

institutions must: Design, develop and reshape curricula in discipline that support IC mission critical skills and competencies.” When asked if the CAE had done so here at Wayne State, Dean Kummler said that since the existing course offerings at Wayne State are robust enough only one Political Science course has been developed. The discussion about the curriculum followed. Dean Kummler was insistent that there is no curriculum. Areas of study for elective credit but not specific courses are what CAE is all about. The Wayne State catalog lists specific courses and all areas of study for the CAE can be found within the catalog. For example, foreign language study is encouraged, but a specific language is not. (At WSU for a foreign language to be counted towards a minor, only the fourth semester and beyond count.) One course was developed for this program, a Study of South Africa.

7. This is year 3 of the grant that is scheduled to run for 5 years. They will reapply next year; and have 2 years left.
8. Dean Kummler was very clear that CAE has just course areas and not specific courses. There is no certificate! (The website says that there is.) If a student chooses to state that he was associated with CAE, he can. Nothing appears on an official WSU transcript. Kummler was insistent that it is an advising program.
9. Some money in the grant pays for study abroad for CAE students.
10. The main advantage for the student is employment opportunities in the intelligence community.
11. A question discussing the problem that the advisor(s) are not covered by the AAUP-AFT.
12. There is no choice about the name. The grant states that it must be called the Center for Academic Excellence. Later a point was made that only 10 of the CAEs use that designation; 2 call themselves by different names.

Deans Kummler and Thompkins left the meeting.

At the joint meeting the committees felt that:

1. The students should make an informed choice whether or not to participate in the CAE. The key is what does the student get by participating? Does obtaining fund to study abroad cause a problem with a student’s financial aid?
2. The CAE needs to be reviewed as an academic program.
3. There needs to be transparency.

4. The original proposal had a certificate in National Security Intelligence Studies being issued on completion. This issue should be followed up.
5. The problem is that the program is informal and not specific. It should be both specific and formal.
6. There needs to be recognition of the concerns of faculty who regard the Center as wrongfully and harmfully implicating them, their research, and their teaching in the Program without their consent.
7. A memo to the Policy Committee from all three committees will be forthcoming.

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As approved at the March 25, 2009, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee