

## APPENDIX 2 – AcAB 11/19/13

Student Congress Meeting, November 12, 2013, reported by William Polik:

Student Congress invited AcAB Chair Will Polik to talk about what the Academic Affairs Board is and how it helps students.

At the November 12 Student Congress meeting, Dr. Polik described the College's shared governance system and the importance of having input from students, faculty, and administration. He stated the purpose of the Academic Affairs Board and described the kinds of issues that the Board has concerned itself with over the last few years. He also described the results of the AcAB faculty survey, as an example of issues that faculty find to be important concerning Hope's academic program. He then invited Student Congress to help identify and provide perspectives on issues related to the academic program that are important to the student body.

A broad discussion ensued, and the following items were mentioned:

- Expected student workload in 2-credit courses
- Scheduling of papers and exams among different courses
- Academic scheduling process
  - Classes were full by Friday, 11/8 by 3pm, leaving 73 first-year students without schedules
  - Small sections are cancelled
  - There are waitlists for many classes
  - It is often difficult to schedule and/or get into courses with only one section
  - Coupled lecture and lab sections means that if one is not possible, then they are all blocked
- There is a shortage of professors
- Students are having trouble with how off-campus courses are transferred back and credited
- Students want the option of NOT having direct transfer of grades for off-campus programs, as grading standards are different in other educational systems and worrying too much about grades detracts from an international experience
- The College should be more open to substitution requests for General Education requirements
  - This is currently done well for the Cultural Heritage requirement, as both IDS and also English, Philosophy, and History courses can count
  - More disciplinary courses should be able to count for General Education requirements

Student Congress Officer Hannah McShane will be convening a Task Force to compile and prioritize suggestions from Student Congress regarding the academic program for the Academic Affairs Board to consider