

May Experience Subcommittee Meeting
October 26, 2007
Minutes

Present: Aarnes, Armstrong, Barnhill, Batson (Recorder), Bressler, Cass, Gabbert

1. The minutes from the October 12, 2007 meeting were approved.
2. The chair reported that our working items for the Course Proposal System were presented to the ITF Steering committee on October 22. Steering will devote time at its next meeting to discuss/revise those items.
3. The committee considered whether faculty could offer a May Experience course that would meet intensely for less than 3 weeks, e.g., 8 hours a day for 8-10 days at a national research laboratory. The consensus opinion was that such an abbreviated course is not appropriate, and that the intense experience should be followed/preceded by other work, perhaps on campus to take full advantage of the 3-week term.
4. The issue of linking a May Experience course with a spring (or summer) term course was discussed. Could faculty offer a May course, for example, that is linked with a special 2- or 4-credit spring course (and is unlike other courses in the department), and require students to commit to both? The committee believes that would be acceptable because the May course remains optional.
5. At present, we are assuming the following dates:

August 15, 2008 – Deadline for submitting proposals for May 2009 offerings
October, 2008 – Faculty vote on proposed courses for May 2009
November, 2008 – Courses approved for May 2009 are published
December 1, 2008 – March 1, 2009 – Registration for May 2009 courses

We began a discussion of whether these dates are appropriate. We are somewhat concerned that for some Study Away courses in May, some of these should be moved to earlier dates. We will discuss this issue in coming meetings.