Faculty Senate Chair Mann’s Note (sent originally with agenda announcement for 4/1 meeting):

Because we have had considerable discussion about the ICC proposal, I wanted to make sure to address the issue here so it would reach the maximum audience. First, I want to say I am thrilled about the level of feedback: this is, indeed, as many have pointed out, a proposal that will affect all of our students and as such, the more feedback and expertise we bring to the issue, the better. Already the questions raised have guided the committee in creating clear precis on much of the information they had previously gathered but had not had available in their short form recommendation: all of these materials, as well as statements from SGA, will be available on a webpage that should be completed by the end of the next week (the webmaster is locked in a house with me at the moment, so I have some pull). This site will also have a space for public comment and I hope and expect to see a robust discussion. The issue was tabled by Academic Affairs, so we have several weeks for that discussion.

**What I ask is that you read these documents on their own merit** [I understand some of you are not happy with the timeline of when documents were made available. I went through the timeline in the academic affairs announcement addenda last week and am happy to discuss further one on one.] I see tremendous opportunity in this proposal. The opportunity for our students, who requested this in the first place, and have indicated their approval as a governance body, to embrace the unique history of this region and have meaningful, experiential, learning around it as they develop in their chosen degree paths. The chance for departments, if they desire, to develop cross-listed courses that are built around disciplinary knowledge and connect to larger issues that students will have connections: such courses already exist in art, education, english, history, religion, social work, and sociology, and I know that several of our faculty members in other departments are doing fascinating work that would create strong, meaningful, experiences for their majors. The chance for our students to continue to participate in service opportunities, which are known to build student connection and success. The opportunity for students to take advantage of the rich programming already happening on this campus, and to do so within a structuring set of experiences that will give them context and connection.

Let me be clear: I am not demanding that this get passed. I have no power to do that, and I think my performance this year has made it clear that supporting faculty governance and increasing participation is my guiding principle. I am impressed by the work and thought a number of our colleagues put into developing this proposal. I am also, now, as the senate chair, the person bringing forward this proposal. The ad hoc committee has completed their charge and the executive committee voted to accept their report and dissolve the committee. As such, please direct questions and ire, if you have it, to me: I will, I promise, do my best to answer and may do so in an even more long winded way.