OPENING: The meeting was called to order by D. Wade, Chair.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by J. Parker, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes for 8/31/05.

The minutes for meeting number 127 were approved via email.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. AAT Degrees

As recommended at the last meeting, a representative of the College of Education, N. Dorsch, provided background information on the development of the Associate in Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees, including insight into previously proposed legislation and the objectives of the degrees. In particular, she highlighted two that have an immediate impact on the College of Education, the Special Education and Early Childhood Education models. She stated they (College of Education) are
currently looking at how the coursework in their programs may need to be
tweaked in terms of sequence in order to accommodate the AAT models.

It was discussed at length if all of the AAT degrees align with the NIU
general education requirements and the IAI General Education Core
Curriculum requirements and whether students transferring these degrees
to NIU should receive Compact Benefits. N. Dorsch stated that the
College of Education supported Compact Benefits for the Special
Education and Early Childhood Education AAT degrees.

G. Seaver referred to the chart provided at the last APASC meeting that
illustrated that the Secondary Mathematics, Special Education and Early
Childhood Education AAT degrees align with the NIU general education
requirements and the IAI GECC which forms the basis for Compact
Benefits. However, the AAT degree in Secondary Science did not.

B. Burk pointed out that some of the community colleges do not currently
offer some of the courses that are currently included in the NIU programs.
Therefore, it would be questionable whether transfer students would be
able to meet the same course requirements as defined by the departments
in the current programs that NIU native students must complete.

N. Dorsch pointed out that the AAT degrees are defined as standards
which combine specific general education requirements into a matrix
which transfers as a group rather than by a set specific number of courses
that are individually articulated. Therefore, the individual departments will
need to address how they will handle transfer students coming in with an
AAT which is standards-based rather than comprised of specific course
requirements.

It was clarified that the General Education Committee oversees NIU’s
general education requirements, and APASC oversees admissions policies
such as Compact Benefits. Hence, APASC is the appropriate committee to
determine whether the AAT degrees should received Compact Benefits.
The question APASC members need to address is: “Are these programs
similar to the IAI, and therefore, should they receive compact benefits?” It
is apparent that the AAT degree in science in particular does not line up
with the IAI GECC particularly in the humanities and fine arts areas.

Each AAT degree is to be considered on an individual basis whether or
not it will be accepted for Compact Benefits. B. Burk reminded us that
other transfer degrees are accepted for admission purposes, but not for
Compact Benefits. A course by course articulation is done for these
degrees. This allows the departments to determine if students need to take
other coursework within their academic program.
It was pointed out that by accepting the AAT degrees for Compact Benefits, the university would not be able to require additional general education requirements for these degrees. However, the colleges/departments could certainly require additional specific course work that aligns with their current academic program requirements. D. Wade asked if these programs meet the spirit of the general education requirements at NIU.

The discussions about transfer degrees have moved away from “whether community colleges can provide the same quality of educational experiences that four-year institutions can” to “do the transfer degrees align with our lower general education requirements.” The goal or the essence of general education is to produce a well-rounded student.

**It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by D. Cesarotti, to approve the AAT Degree in Secondary Mathematics for Compact Benefits.**

It was decided that the degrees/standards cannot be stipulated for community college faculty teaching these programs. The AAT degree in Secondary Mathematics does match up with the IAI because the students could earn an AA/AS degree by taking the same general education requirements or could transfer in with only the GECC. The general education requirements would be met in this AAT degree and Compact Benefits would be awarded. It was pointed out that students will still need to meet all other requirements that the math department stipulates in the major. It was explained again that a course-by-course evaluation will not be completed with this degree if it accepted for compact benefits. However, it was stated that the department could still require additional courses in the major program to graduate. **Motion passed.**

**It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by M.J. Blaschak, to approve the AAT Degree in Special Education for Compact Benefits. Motion passed.**

**It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by J. Parker, to approve the AAT Degree in Early Childhood Education for Compact Benefits. Motion passed.**

**It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by D. Cesarotti, to not approve the AAT Degree in Secondary Science for Compact Benefits.**

D. Wade asked if we want to refer this to another committee, table it, or receive input from appropriate constituencies. The science committee could present an explanation for the compelling reason why it doesn’t correspond with the IAI GECC, i.e., why there is a decrease of 6-9 credit hours in humanities and social sciences.
E. Seaver stated that we could table it and ask for input from the General Education Committee and/or members of the Advising Group but not the college/department because this issue doesn’t relate to the major requirements.

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by D. Cesarotti, to table the AAT Degree in Secondary Science for Compact Benefits and refer it to the General Education Committee and the Advising Group for input regarding Compact Benefits. After a reminder that there were two motions on the table, D. Wade withdrew the first motion and asked the members to replace it with the text from this motion as a friendly amendment.

D. Wade asked if there was a body that is handling this to explore why the AAT Degree in Secondary Science is decreasing the number of credit hours in humanities and social sciences.

B. Burk requested the item to be tabled for discussion on Compact Benefits but would like the members to consider accepting the AAT Degree in Secondary Science for admission to NIU. Motion opposed.

E. Mogren would like an explanation that substantiates why it’s good to have less knowledge about humanities or social sciences. He would prefer to vote on whether or not to accept Compact Benefits to this degree until further information is provided.

It was moved by E. Mogren, seconded by D. Wade, to accept the AAT Degree in Secondary Science for admission but not for Compact Benefits. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by C. Rollman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Sheri C. Kallembach.