**Report of the Academic Review Committee to the Faculty Assembly**

**For Wednesday November 14th, 2012**

1. Requests: New courses / course revisions / new programs / program revisions

We have received approximately 125 requests for new courses, course revisions, program revisions, and new programs. We anticipate it will take the remainder of the semester to process these requests. Please bear with us.

As a reminder – per WAC (see ARC decision item #821, October 2011), CRWT 102 is a prereq to all Writing Intensive courses (except First Year Seminar, and (obviously) CRWT 102 itself).

2. Academic Policies

A few updates to policies and/or procedures are working their way through the Provost’s Council process. These include:

1. Academic Integrity – Procedure.
	* Updated to create an equivalent to the J-Board within the Provost’s Office to hear AI cases. Rationale: on occasion, a student has multiple infractions in a single semester, and it becomes difficult to coordinate when one case is being adjudicated by the Provost’s Office and others by Judicial Affairs.
2. Independent Studies – Policy / Procedure (to be voted on, 11/14/12)
	* Update language of policy, to describe the purpose of an IS
	* Update procedures. New limits on career totals (8 credits instead of 16). No change to semester-limit (4 credits). Removal of limit of 4 separate IS’s. (Currently, a student could do 4 separate 4-cr IS’s for a total of 16 credits, i.e., the equivalent of one semester.) Note, approximately 50-60% of IS’s in the last 3 semesters have been for 4 credits, the rest are mostly for 1 or 2 credits.
	* Update generic description for Course Catalog:

“The independent study provides the student the opportunity to explore, in depth and independently but with the guidance of a faculty member, a topic not covered in the standard curriculum. Under extraordinary circumstances, independent studies may also provide students opportunities to explore topics covered in the standard curriculum.” (This is the language from the Policy.)

1. Gen Ed reading / writing / math – Procedure change (to be presented at next Provost’s Council).
* Currently, students must complete their GE math/English within the first 64 credits. Proposed addition to the procedure: students requiring developmental courses in math and/or English should register for such courses in their first semester at Ramapo. (Rationale: a) to try to ensure the 64-credit deadline is met; b) if developmental courses are needed, the longer the student waits to take them, the less likely they are to perform well, particularly in math.)

3. Motion: Approval of New Program, Joint Program with Caldwell College for MA in Counseling (Art Therapy)

ARC #858.

The outline of the proposal is presented here. The complete package is a separate pdf on the ARC page.

**Visual Arts Proposes Joint Program Agreement between RCNJ ARTS and Caldwell College’s Masters in Counseling with a Specialization in Art Therapy.**

Summary:We propose creating a Joint Program in Art Therapy whereby first year students who meet the criteria can be accepted into RCNJ Visual Arts and Caldwell College’s Master’s in Counseling with a Specialization in Art Therapy. While at Ramapo, students will have to meet benchmarks and prerequisite requirements before being fully accepted into Caldwell’s program.

The Joint Program will require specific courses in Math, Psychology and Visual Arts that are required for admission into Caldwell College’s graduate program in Counseling with a Specialization in Art Therapy. Tracks would be used to designate the students admitted for advisement and admission purposes.

Description of Proposed Changes:We intend to formalize a joint degree program whereby qualified first year students can be accepted into Ramapo College’s Visual Arts program and Caldwell’s Master’s in Counseling with a Specialization in Art Therapy graduate program. These students would receive specific advisement and would be monitored at prescribed benchmarks so that they are on track to meet all the criteria of Caldwell’s graduate program and Ramapo’s degree requirements. They would not be fully admitted into the graduate program until they have met these criteria. Once they do, they are guaranteed admittance. In a separate but related request, Visual Arts proposes adding 2 new tracks to include Art Therapy prerequisite courses. They are tracks within existing concentrations. Students would be accepted into Visual Arts with a concentration in Drawing and Painting with Art Therapy OR a concentration in Sculpture with Art Therapy. These specific tracks are designed to comply with the portfolio requirement and specific prerequisites for Caldwell College’s Master’s in Counseling with a Specialization in Art Therapy.

Benefits:There are many benefits both for Ramapo College and for our students.

* This joint program would attract high quality high school graduates to the Visual

Arts major.

* The program encourages interdisciplinary study between Visual Arts and

Psychology.

* The program is restricted to a small number of students, 3 per year, so is easily

accommodated within the existing resources.

* Ramapo offers two related courses within Visual Arts that introduce Art Therapy

to undergraduates, an extra preparation our students.

* The Caldwell program is unique in that it offers a Master’s in Counseling with the

addition of a specialization in Art Therapy.

* Four-year plans accommodate the graduate prerequisites without adding

additional time.

* Students can opt for a minor in Psychology by adding just one additional course.