

Educational Policies Committee

Minutes
05/21/2009

Members Present: T. Stearns, C. Works, J. Wingard, S. Cabaniss, K. Grady, L. Morrow, T. Lease (for K. Ely), S. Cunningham, D. Freidel, L. Lee

Liaisons Present: E. Sundberg, R Coleman-Senghor

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. The Agenda was approved with two changes to Times Certain.
3. The minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

Chair of EPC: TS thanked EPC members for all work done during the year. He reported items due to go forward to the Senate include the new concentration in Bioengineering and the streamlined Business proposal. He also reported that EPC Business item #3 on the English Stretch Proposal would go forward as a course report only, if approved. That is, there would not be a special report to the Senate.

Academic Programs: In response to a question by SCa, ES reported that about 100-125 out-of-area junior transfers were not admitted for Fall, 2009.

Graduate Studies Subcommittee: TS reported on how graduate programs handled Program Review.

General Education Subcommittee: CW reported that the GE Program Review was advancing to the last stage and would soon be posted on the GE web page. They were waiting for the external reviewer's report in order to finalize action items.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. WGS Program Review: TS gave a brief description of the Program Review Process. D. Romesburg reported that the SSU WGS program had the largest number of majors in the CSU as well as the smallest number of tenure-track faculty. Two hurdles faced by the Department are that students do not know about the program until they have been at SSU a while, and tenure-track faculty are needed to teach large GE courses in order to attract majors. Several suggestions were made to help the small department cope, but all concurred that WGS needed more tenure-track faculty in order to function properly.
2. Computer Science Program Review: TS gave a brief description of the Program Review Process. L. Stauffer and T. Watts answered questions posed by the two EPC reviewers. The discussion focused on the needs of the department in order to obtain ABET accreditation. The external reviewer suggested strengthening the mathematics portion of the curriculum and compensating faculty for workload that is currently being volunteered. There was also agreement that evidence of student learning needed to be embedded into the curriculum, either in a capstone course or in a couple of formative courses such as Programming 2. TS explained that the EPC letter would be sent to the committee for review and then forwarded to the Provost.
3. English 100 A & B, Stretch Proposal: G. Vollmer gave a brief history of how the English Department has handled pre-baccalaureate courses by folding English 30 into English

99. They studied programs at other institutions and decided to try a different approach which would focus more on reading skills and give the students a chance to take a credit bearing class. The first semester will be for elective credit only, and students must obtain a grade of C- or better to proceed to the second semester. They must obtain a grade of C- in order to pass the course and receive GE credit for English. The students will take the two-semester courses as a cohort and will be expected to continue in the same section throughout the year. The unit total will be six, instead of the former seven for English 99 and 101. There were several attachments to the agenda and additional handouts to help explain the various ramifications of the proposal. There was considerable discussion and questions and answers.

Motion to waive the first reading (K. Grady). Second (D. Freidel) Approved.

ES said she would research whether or not a C- can be set as the bar for passing. GV said that alternatives for failing students would be discussed since a student can pass English 101 with a D.

Motion to approve (T. Lease). Second (K. Grady). Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Program Review Procedures: TS suggested that EPC discuss the procedures in terms of workload, efficiency and to address issues of diversity as requested by the Senate Ad Hoc Diversity Committee. SC suggested that KE's guidelines for EPC reviewers be redone with an eye on diversity issues. It was also suggested that the overall Program Review Policy be reviewed next fall. ES stated that the first round of Department reviews was almost complete so that next fall would be a good time to review the policy.

BUSINESS ITEMS (cont):

4. EPC Report and Recommendations re: A New Academic Unit: TS explained two changes made to the previous document. One was to use the phrase "faculty administrator" in Recommendation #1. The other was to clarify the relationship to the GE Subcommittee was as a "liaison." J. Kornfeld again stated the need for coordination among the various entities such as University course coordinators and Student Affairs managers. W. Boda presented a report on how several other CSU campus handle such an academic unit, almost of which housed it in Academic Affairs. There was extensive discussion.

Motion to extend the discussion two minutes (T. Lease). Second (L. Morrow) Passed.

Motion by T. Lease (second by L. Morrow) to send the report forward with four additional recommendations:

1. SAEM be consulted
2. University courses coordinators be consulted.
3. The GE Subcommittee be consulted.
4. A Resource Statement be drafted.

Passed unanimously.

Motion of commendation for EPC Chair, T. Stearns, for a job well done. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned
Minutes submitted by S. Cabaniss.