

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes, Sept. 17, 2009

Members Present: C. Works, T. Stearns, M. Milligan, S. Cabaniss, K. Grady, Proxy for L. Morrow (R. Coleman-Senghor), S. Cunningham, M. Clark, L. Lee, J. Tice

Liaisons Present: Melinda Barnard, Academic Programs; R. Coleman-Senghor, APC

Others Present: E. Ochoa, R. McNamara, V. Franklin, T. Lease

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. Agenda was approved with one addition: Senate resolution on proposed four-day schedule added as business item 3 (prior items 3-5 renumbered as 4-6). Moved (Stearns). Seconded (Grady).
3. The minutes for 5/21/09 and 09/03/09 were approved.

REPORTS

Chair's Report (C. Works):

1. EPC is scheduled to meet with WASC team on Thursday, Oct. 8, 11:00-11:50, Schulz 3001.
2. S. Moulton is holding an informal conversation for the campus community in the Commons, 09/29/09, 11:00-12:45
3. Program Review team names have been forwarded to D. Hartranft, Faculty Affairs. Team members are to contact him if they have not heard from him. Additional teams are needed for remaining unassigned reviews.
4. Consider not sending a proxy on furlough days to avoid increasing workload; Structures and Functions to discuss not penalizing faculty who miss meeting days due to furloughs.
5. From Executive Committee: Provost wants to revisit prioritizing programs based on program reviews.
6. 9 units of GE in residence requirement is being raised due to CSU compliance issue.

Liaison Graduate Studies Subcommittee Report (T. Stearns):

1. GSS discussed four-day week report with focus on concerns for graduate courses: many courses meet in late afternoon/evening and some programs make heavy use of Friday and Saturday meetings (ex: Counseling)

Discussion of possible impacts of four-day schedule.

Grady noted concern that bound theses remain in library even with use of ScholarWorks.

Cunningham noted that library liaison should be added (ex: K. Brodsky).

Liaison GE Subcommittee Report (C. Works):

1. Concern that Friday closures will negatively impact ability of students to graduate in timely fashion.
2. Doing own assessment prior to WASC.
3. T. Wandling has come forward with proposal for GE revisions, including shift to 4 units.

Liaison from Senate Budget Subcommittee (T. Stearns): No Report

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. CALS Letter to Provost

Second reading (moved from consent calendar at last meeting).
Corrections noted, specifically to include department response.
Moved to approve letter and forward to Provost (Stearns). Second (Cabaniss). Approved.

2. AMCS Letter to Provost

Second reading (moved from consent calendar at last meeting).
Motion to add department's response (per M. Ezra's comment in earlier minutes that AMCS was in favor of the proposal, but CALS was not) to letter's proposal (Cabaniss). Second (Clark).
Approved.
Moved to send letter reflecting changes noted to Provost (Stearns). Second (Cunningham).
Approved.

It was noted that the final step in the Program Review process was the development of an MOU between the Provost and a department.

Moved that EPC should consider the program discontinuance policy (Stearns). Seconded (Cabaniss). Approved to add to agenda this semester.

Tice requested future discussion of policy on minors and double majors.

3. Senate Resolution on Four-Day Schedule

Discussion of EPC position on resolution. Stearns expressed concern that clauses 3 and 4 make assumptions that have not been fully vetted. Milligan noted that there seems to be precedent for the Space Allocations Committee to vet the proposal. Members commented that curricular oversight and the four-day schedule should be treated as separate issues.

Motion to support clauses 1, 2, and 5 of resolution, but not clauses 3 and 4 (Cunningham).
Seconded (Stearns). Approved by hand count (Lee and Tice abstaining, Coleman-Senghor not voting).

4. Action Items for GE Program Review

Discussion of GE Subcommittee's proposed action items. Works to add R. Laney and GE Subcommittee to future EPC meeting agenda for presentation of proposals.

5. Update on WASC Visit (Provost Ochoa)

Ochoa noted that scheduling of EPC meeting with WASC during their visit shows importance of assessment and curriculum. Works asked Ochoa if he would be meeting with department chairs to craft MOUs related to program reviews. He responded yes, but that these meetings have not yet been scheduled. Works asked if he had reviewed the EPC's program review letters. Ochoa said no, not yet. Stearns asked if a program was under review for discontinuation and that review was linked to program evaluation, would he take into account the letters from EPC? Ochoa responded yes. Tice asked if EPC was the appropriate venue to discuss possible limits to minors and second majors. Ochoa responded that there was a directive to limit the maximum number of units and this is almost impossible to do without limiting second majors, but that the issue is not yet on the table.

6. Proposal to move to four-day a week teaching modules (Provost Ochoa)

Ochoa asked those present to refer to his written report. Based on the report, he noted that any issues that might arise due to a four-day schedule would be manageable ones, not deal breakers. He noted a clear distinction between (1) the campus furlough closures and (2) the four-day week proposal, and that the first occurred first and was driving the second.

Ochoa noted that there had been two major concerns expressed regarding the proposal. (1) The schedule was believed to introduce inflexibility into the days available to be selected by faculty as furlough days, but that the President had agreed to allow faculty to take furloughs on days other than the mandatory Fridays. These exceptions would be negotiated by faculty members with their Deans. (2) Concern over the involvement of faculty governance. The Provost noted his commitment to engaging faculty governance in assessing the operation of the four-day schedule. He noted the concern is legitimate. He said that technically scheduling modules were a staff issue, but the proposed change is substantive enough to require a full vetting in the future, which was not possible to do for Spring 2010 given the time constraints, although the proposal was vetted to the extent possible.

Ochoa then took questions. Discussion took place. Ochoa noted cost savings is not driving the proposal, but rather it is the goal of mitigating the impact of campus closure days. Cabaniss noted Science & Technology's concerns over scheduling and pedagogy. Coleman-Senghor noted in his role as proxy that Arts & Humanities was opposed to the proposal. Works asked to confirm that TBA courses could be scheduled for any Friday other than the six campus closure days, which the Provost confirmed. Milligan suggested that given the history of module decisions on campus, it would seem that the proposal should go to the Space Committee, which the Provost agreed should happen; he noted there had not been time to do so.

Stearns motioned for a resolution: EPC requests that the Provost should provide full flexibility to faculty regarding scheduling on non-campus closure Fridays for any needs that are demonstrated to be curricular and/or pedagogical in nature.

The Provost indicated he supported the basic idea of the resolution, but that it would be an implementation issue.

Move to extend meeting by 3 minutes (Stearns). Seconded (Tice). Approved.

Move to vote to approve spirit of motion (Clark). Seconded (Tice). Approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Melinda Milligan, 09/30/09