

Educational Policies Committee Minutes
April 12, 2012, 11:00am-12:50pm

Present: Armand Gilinsky, Christina Baker, Melinda Milligan, Carmen Works, Elaine Newman, Amy Kittelstrom, Joe Marquez, Elaine Sundberg

Meeting called to order. Agenda approved. Minutes of 3/22/12 approved with the following change: remove the three bolded “Ed. Notes” comments on pages one and two.

Reports

Armand Gilinsky (Chair, EPC; Liaison to/from APC) reported on that morning’s APC meeting. Budget issues were discussed, including an emphasis on transparency as a guiding principle. APC has drafted an MOU w/ Extended Education. Gilinsky provided comments on the draft and will bring the issue to the next EPC meeting.

The proposed “mega-course” to be taught by a team of Deans has been postponed until Spring 2013; the plan is to teach it as an experimental course. It will likely be offered again in Fall 2013 and reviewed after that point. It will appear as an information item for the GE Subcommittee and EPC in Fall 2012, but full review will not happen unless it is proposed as a permanent course. EPC members had an extended discussion regarding the need to ensure that the course is thoroughly assessed (including assessment of student learning) when it is offered experimentally.

Elaine Sundberg (Director, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies) reported that the GE Subcommittee met with Thaine Stearns to stress the need for sufficient seats in A1 due to the 900 continuing students who still need to meet the area. GE approved the War and Peace lecture series to meet A1 on an experimental basis in Fall 2011 and has now done the same for Fall 12. They have also allowed two other courses to meet A1. Sundberg noted she has assembled a team from SSU to attend a June 2012 ITL conference on improving GE assessment.

Amy Kittelstrom (Voting member of Program Review Subcommittee) reported that the Program Review Committee is creating a memo for departments that will discuss a streamlined program review process. It will be circulated. Gilinsky noted he will ask Stephen Galloway to attend the final EPC meeting to report on this process. Sundberg noted that a tentative program review schedule has been shared with Deans for distribution to department chairs. Reviews will begin next year with the goal of having a more focused review process than in the past.

No reports from Jeffrey Reeder (Liaison to Graduate Studies Subcommittee; not present) or Carmen Works (Liaison to GE Subcommittee).

Old Business

Geography Program Revision. Presented by Rheyna Laney. Second Reading. Gilinsky noted that Laney had submitted a memo (included in the EPC packet) clearly outlining the proposed changes. Kittelstrom moved to approve. Newman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Kinesiology Concentration/Curriculum Revision. Presented by Rebecca Bryan. Newman moved to approve. Kittelstrom seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business

Revisions to the Biology Major and Concentrations. Presented by Richard Whitkus and Nathan Rank. Whitkus noted that these revisions were driven by the last program review. First reading: waived. Second reading: passed unanimously, with two suggestions: First, include a letter of support from the Chemistry Department chair when the proposal is brought to the Executive Committee. Second, create a syllabus/set of guidelines to be available to students interested in taking BIO 494, the research experience course offered on a contract basis. Such a sample outline would also guide faculty on the creation of learning contract for the course.

Information Items

Graduation Initiative Group Update. Presented by Lynn Stauffer and Elaine Sundberg. The Graduation Initiative stems from the Chancellor's Office and charges campuses with improving graduation rates by 2015 for several student categories: FTF (6%), URM (8.7%), transfers (6%), URM transfers (10.3%) [SSU's goals]. Stauffer presented highlights of the group's work via a handout, noting that SSU is on track as of Fall 2011. The campus is doing more to improve FTF rates than transfer rates. She explained the group is challenged by a lack of current and desired data (including on the current semester), as well as by the ability to implement proposed changes. Gilinsky noted he will invite GIG to return to a Fall 2012 EPC meeting to provide an update.

Provost's Spring 2012 Update. Presented by Andrew Rogerson. The Provost updated the committee on ongoing campus budget issues and plans to address campus funding challenges. He noted each CSU campus is preparing its own proposals, but not necessarily implementing them quite yet. At SSU, restructuring is planned. Much of it will be less visible to faculty, but professional development funds will likely be limited. Three searches for one-year visiting positions are in progress. Hiring for next year is under discussion. Rogerson emphasized that "dynamic competition" will be key to SSU's future success, including targeting adult learners and online learners. He concluded with support for framing the campus as a site of "collaboration" and took the committee's questions and comments.

On the Horizon

Gilinsky noted that (1) approval of Revisions to the ECE Minor, (2) information on the Freshman Learning Cohort, and (3) revisions to the Latin American Studies Minor are

expected for the 4/26 agenda. In addition, he noted to expect (1) revisions to the MA Spanish Program and (2) revisions to the MBA Program at future meetings, once they are through the Graduate Studies Subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned.

- Submitted by M. Milligan