

Educational Policies Committee Meeting
Minutes for November 10, 2005

Members Present: Perry Marker (Chair), Steve Bittner, Sharon Cabaniss, Mary Halavais, Vincent Richman, Rick Robison, Marci Sanchez, Lindsey Simoncic, Thaine Stearns, Elaine Sundberg, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works.

Proxies: Paul Draper (for Lynne Morrow)

Agenda: Add 12:15 time certain for Dr. Sascha Von Meier.

Minutes: Stand as written.

Reports:

1. Perry Marker, Chair of EPC:

There has been lots of discussion at the Executive Committee about the Program Review Policy. There is no up-to-date program review policy in place. The President has given a deadline of December 1 at which time he will declare an interim policy. The Executive Committee has advised EPC to wait until at least December 1 before proceeding on Program Review.

2. Elaine Sundberg, Associate Vice Provost, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies:

The Department Chairs did submit Assessment Reports to Academic Affairs. Academic Affairs is proposing to sponsor a series of workshops on assessments in the spring.

3. Rick Robison, APC liaison:

APC is concerned with the Academic Long-Range Plan. Handouts were distributed about projections of costs for maintaining and improving Student Faculty Ratios.

4. Marci Sanchez, General Education Subcommittee:

There was discussion about the inclusion of credit for area E in the Freshman Year Experience.

MS is also now a member of the FYE Planning Committee. They are starting to work on a syllabus. They have mapped out 12-14 weeks of lecture topics.

5. Sharon Cabaniss volunteered to be the liaison to the Teacher Education Committee.

6. Steve Bittner, University Standards Subcommittee:

They will take up minor requirements at the next meeting.

Business:

1. Michelle Jolly, Chair, University Standards Subcommittee, Course Repeat Policy, Second Reading:

There was discussion and explanation of the proposed policy. The various aspects of the proposed policy were reviewed, including grade replacement, grade averaging and repeat unit limits. There was concern expressed about the increased limits on students' flexibility and the potential impact on students' ability to apply successfully to graduate schools. It was stated that SSU has the most liberal policy among the CSU campuses. Some CSU campuses allow no grade forgiveness. Different graduate schools look differently at transcripts.

There was a motion (Moved by Paul Draper, Seconded by Steve Bittner):

Move that we accept the proposed policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Melissa Vandeveer, Nursing Program Changes:

Melissa Vandeveer and Wendy Smith explained the reasons for the nursing program changes. The shift from four to five semesters in length is supported by faculty and students. The move to three from two units in N500A Scholarly Inquiry is motivated by accreditation and national certification requirements. It was suggested that the term summer session be used instead of summer semester.

There was a motion (Moved by Steve Bittner, Seconded by Carmen Works):

Move that we accept the proposal with the minor changes suggested.

There was a motion (Moved by Marci Sanchez, Seconded by Sharon Cabaniss):

Move to a second reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Perry Marker, Chair EPC, Liaison Voting:

PM confirmed that it was the sense of EPC to hand over the issue to Structure and Functions.

4. Reflections on the meeting with the Provost:

There was general discussion and comments about the visit from the Provost during the last meeting. Specific topics included disappointment that the Provost was late for the meeting, concerns about how the budget works and where salary savings are kept, the fact that Program Review applies to academic departments and the library has chosen to undergo program review.

5. Extension of Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to the daughter of Mary Halavais:

The Educational Policies Committee extended their Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to the daughter of Mary Halavais.

6. Sascha Von Meier, Freshman Year Experience Planning Team:

Sascha Von Meier reported on the current status of the planning for the Freshman Year Experience. She mentioned that the FYE Team had discussed many issues at their recent meeting including: how the lectures would support the discussions; consistency among sections; concerns about workload and the feeling that the FYE team's job is to do a really good course for 150 students. SVM described how the FYE team was developing a course with the theme of identity, what it means to be a human being within a context of a global culture / awareness. The syllabus has not been drafted. SVM responded to a question about area E credit for the FYE by stating that the FYE was not yet drafted and the specific areas for which credit would be awarded was a GE Subcommittee decision.

There was a five minute extension of the EPC meeting by the chair, PM, with the agreement of the EPC, in order to allow further discussion and questions about the FYE.