

EPC Meeting 03-19-2009
Minutes

Present: Thaine Stearns, Carmen Works, Kathleen Noonan (for John Wingard), Sharon Cabaniss, Karen Grady, Terry Lease (for Kirsten Ely), Sheila Cunningham, Dolly Freidel, Lillian Lee, Tristan Kelly

Absent: Lynne Morrow

Guests: Michael Ezra, Robert Rosen, Barbara Brooks, Jagan Agrawal, Mohammad Haider, Kirsten Ely

The agenda was approved. The chair announced that there would be no time for reports and that the discussion of UNIV 238 was rescheduled for the next meeting. There was an announcement that Julie Greathouse would attend the next meeting to discuss UNIV 238 and that anyone with concerns or questions should email her and copy Lillian Lee. Minutes for the prior (March 5) meeting were not available.

Master Catalog Course Change Forms:

The chair announced that he had received twenty some-odd Master Catalog Course Change forms and that he had signed most of them, seeing no reason that anyone might object. However, he brought several to the committee to give members a chance to raise concerns; otherwise, he would sign those also. The forms brought to the committee were for ENSP 416 to change it from 3 units to 3/4 units, for the BUS 499 series to change the CS numbers from 36 to 78, and for ECON 496 to change the CS number from 78 to 36. A member asked that ENSP provide an explanation of why ENSP 416 might sometimes be 3 units and sometimes 4 and asked why it was not either a 3-unit course or a 4-unit course.

AMCS Program Review: Michael Ezra presenting.

Michael Ezra expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to talk to the committee. He said AMCS's biggest issue is the catch 22 about GE—the program would be well-served by offering fewer GE classes and more smaller major courses, but the GE courses ensure the viability of the program, especially in a budget-cut environment. He said that the Curriculum Committee for the School of Arts & Humanities is looking at its own GE course offerings, especially in areas A and C and that the committee may introduce some potentially radical reform.

A member noted that non-credential teaching majors have very few major courses that are not also GE. Michael acknowledged the issue and said that the number of AMCS faculty had gone from five (with another line approved) to three. A member asked if the double-counting of GE classes is an issue, and Elaine Sundberg replied that EO 1033 allows for it. Someone suggested (or wondered aloud) if it would be better to combine AMCS with, for example, CALS. Michael said the reluctance to pursue that course of action came from outside AMCS.

Saturday University: First reading; Robert Rosen and Barbara Brooks presenting. Robert Rosen reported that the dean of the School of Extended Education (SEE) was ill and regretted his absence. Robert Rosen and Barbara Brooks provided handouts to the committee. The purpose of Saturday University (SU) is to allow schools/departments to offer additional classes, beyond what the state budget would allow, and give students an opportunity to take the classes need to stay on track toward graduation. Robert reported that students on financial aid could use excess aid to fund enrollment in SU, in the same way they may use excess aid to fund summer school enrollment.

A member noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EPC and SEE limits special session classes during the fall or spring semester to classes that are off campus or distance learning. EO 802 allows for regular classes to run through SEE if state funding is not available or not appropriate. The chair said he would send EPC members by email the MOU and EO 802.

Robert reported that units earned in SU would be treated as “in residence” according to the university’s registrar, but a member had a question as to the authority upon which that ruling was made. SEE representatives did not know.

The committee discussed the need to frame an endorsement (if one is to come from EPC) to protect against using SU as a means to play budget games. At the department level the concern is that schools/departments might cut low enrollment classes and move them to SU. At the university level the concern is that SU may allow the administration to reduce the level of funding for instruction.

A member asked if the Academic Calendar approved by EPC covers special sessions. Elaine said it does not and only covers state-supported instruction. The chair opined that the committee should still consider the issue. The proposal will return for a second reading at the next EPC meeting, incorporating the answers to question and concerns raised by individual committee members and liaisons.

Proposal for GE (Area B3) course from Engineering Science: First reading; Jagan Agrawal and Mohammad Haider presenting.

These courses were approved by GE Subcommittee; accordingly, if it is approved by EPC, they will be approved for SSU. The courses are ES 101A (class) and ES 101B (lab).

Jagan explained that many people today use terms such as cell (as in cell phone), memory/RAM, and bytes without really knowing what they mean. This course would address those areas and allow our students to be better informed with regard to technology. The (optional) lab component of the class will also give students a chance to work with some of the underlying technologies, such as building a network.

A member noted that the syllabus for 101B should be revised to reflect that 101A is a corequisite or prerequisite. Dolly moved to waive the first reading; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously. ?? (I believe it was Sharon or Carmen) moved

to accept the proposal, subject to the revision noted above for the ES 101B syllabus; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Executive MBA Program: First reading; Terry Lease and Kirsten Ely presenting. The Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) proposes to provide working professionals who have at least five years of experience in the business environment with courses focused on higher-level policy-making, strategic planning and leadership skills.

The EMBA will be a self-supported concentration within the existing state-supported MBA program (a similar situation to the Direct Entry Masters program in Nursing).

While the MBA provides undergraduates with a sound foundation in business, there is no academic program in SSU's service area for working professionals who want to move on to high-level management/administration positions. The EMBA will bridge that gap and answers the need identified by the business community.

Classes will be held on alternate Fridays and Saturdays during the academic year over an 18-month period. A cohort of 15 to 25 students will be admitted each January beginning 2010 with two (or possibly three) cohorts running on a staggered basis at any given time. The cost to the student will be \$35,000 for the program.

Discussion ensued. The proposal will return for a second reading at the next EPC meeting, incorporating the answers to question and concerns raised by individual committee members and liaisons.

Prepared by Terry Lease, with the EMBA section based on notes provided by Lillian Lee.