

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes: March 6, 2014
Recorded by: Christina Baker

Members Present: Melinda Milligan, chair; Tim Wandling; Christina Baker; Armand Gilinsky; Carmen Works; Nathan Rank; Laura Watt; Felicia Palsson; Elizabeth Dippel (Student Rep)
Liaison Present: Elaine Sundberg for Academic Programs

MM calls meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

MM announces changes to agenda:

- “UNIV 160AB, Experimental GE A3/E, process review” has time certain of 11:30. (This item should be listed as Old Business, instead of new business)
- “Entrepreneurship Certificate,” 1st reading, has time certain of 11:45.
- Election of EPC Chair for next year should be added to new business.

Agenda approved (with the changes listed above).

Approval of 2/20 Minutes:

- CW notes that under “Old Business: Item 1: COMS 2nd reading continued” the minutes refer to Dean Stearns in a way that may give one the impression that he was present at the 2/20 EPC meeting. Dean Stearns did not attend the 2/20 EPC meeting. Rather, the minutes reflect that fact that MM had a discussion with Dean Stearns, to which she refers during the 2/20 EPC meeting.
- MM thanks FP for providing detailed minutes for the 2/20 meeting. A short discussion about exactly how much detail should be included in the minutes follows. NR offers the info that Laurel has a template available.

Minutes approved (with the notes regarding Dean Stearns listed above).

Chair of EPC Report (MM)

- The “On the Horizon” list was too long to fit on the agenda page. MM handed out the full list in a separate document at the beginning of the meeting.
- We will hear about A&H sophomore year experience courses once they have passed through GE.
- MM has been in touch with school curriculum committees:
 - MM would like to encourage better and more regular communication between schools and EPC reps.
 - MM has also highlighted the importance of school curriculum committees ensuring that documents are complete prior to being forwarded to EPC.
 - MM is also communicating with school curriculum committees regarding non-GE course proposals. Although non-GE course proposals normally skip school curriculum committees, MM suggests that it may be a good idea for them to see proposals as information items (NR notes that this is already standard practice in his school. TW expresses concern about workload and not having the people power to add additional work to the A&H committee).

Update on Program Review Subcommittee vacancies: ExCom changed 2 vacancies to at-large positions for the remainder of the semester.

Discussion of handout titled “Governance Positions Related to Curriculum Review by School – 3/04/14 version” (distributed by MM at beginning of meeting):

CW points out that no library reps are included on handout. MM states that this information can be added to the handout

FP asks for the status of the University Studies Curriculum Committee. MM says this should be added to the EPC “On the Horizon” list.

Info Items (MM)

1. Course Additions: ANTH 444 and THAR 375 are major courses being added (details are available on Moodle)
2. Course Deletions: GEOG 393; ARTH 212AB, 361, 363, 490F, 491F (details available on Moodle)

The ARTH courses had been part of the old film studies minor (this minor was revised and moved out of the ARTH department last year). These courses had not been taught for some time and are not part of the new film studies minor.

Consent Items (MM)

1. ESM 10: This is now permanent, after being run experimentally
Consent item #1 approved with no objections.
2. PHIL 203 and 205
Mike Smith’s memos related to these courses were emailed and are on Moodle.
Question is posed to committee: Are the memos detailed enough for us to make a decision? Discussion followed: AG would like to see more detail (about specific GE learning objectives, for example). ES points out that this information is available in proposal. LW echoes AG’s comment that more detail would be helpful to get a better sense of conversation that occurred related to courses. NR and TW point out that if the information is available elsewhere (such as in the proposal), it does not seem necessary to include in memo, too. ES agrees.
Consent item #2 is approved with no objections.

*MM notes that “UNIV 160AB process review” should be listed as old business item #2, instead of new business item #1

Old Business Item #2 / TC 11:30 / UNIV 160AB Process Review

T. Lease and M Smith are present for discussion.

Discussion of rules for “closed sessions”:

MM revisits information that she emailed to EPC last week, regarding closed sessions: She notes that Roberts Rules allow for closed sessions if motion of privilege is used. But, based on her communication with R. Senghas, the sentiment seems to be that closed sessions should not be used, although the language is not clear in the senate by laws. MM had asked (via email) EPC to vote on whether we want to return the proposal to GE for possible further discussion and a revote, but no decision has been reached.

Committee discusses how to proceed with UNIV 160AB proposal: If we send proposal back to GE for revote, it is in their hands and we cannot dictate to them that they need to follow a

specific process. TW makes a convincing argument against resending proposal back to GE for a revote.

M. Smith notes that a new proposal was actually resubmitted to GE a few weeks ago, by the same proposer, as a different course.

Given this information, MM suggests and LW motions, that we convey to GE that we recommend against closed sessions, but that we will not return the current proposal to GE for a revote.

Committee approves this motion. There is 1 abstention.

New Business Item #1 (moved up on Agenda, from #2): Entrepreneurship Certificate (Academic Credit), 1st reading / TC 11:45 / A Gilinsky

Idea behind certificate is that business students would partner with non-business students to create a business plan. No new courses are being added for the certificate program. This certificate program is aimed at non-business students.

AG has spoken with faculty in several non-business departments. To encourage participation, faculty who serve as mentors for program would get a stipend and students who participate would enter an externally judged business plan competition for a cash prize. The goal is to foster collaboration between business and non-business majors and increase creativity of business proposals.

Dean of Business has funded program, so far. AG is seeking GMC funding.

ES asks for clarification as to whether certificates would be given to business majors. AG states that they would not, as the program is designed to encourage participation of non-business majors. In order for students to receive certificate, they must: enroll in two required courses, compete in business plan competition, and be a non-business major.

ES points out that a work group is being formed to figure out how to incorporate information about certificates into students' transcripts. Questions whether it is beneficial to offer a certificate to students, in general, and whether all certificates should be listed on transcripts. TW states that he thinks his student would appreciate having the certificate and it would help them in the job market.

ES points out that page 4 of the proposal should say "Credit Certificate Program" (not non-credit).

Old Business Item #1: COMS 2nd reading, cont. / TC 12:15

L.Burch (current COMS chair), M Calavita (incoming COMS chair), and T. Stearns (Dean of A&H) are present for discussion

MM notes that syllabi and MCCCFS are available on Moodle.

MC states that the formatting of the proposal has changed, but not the substance. The proposal is also more explicit about their motivations for the revision (see page 8 of proposal).

CW states that the variable unit totals in sample four year plan are not consistent with the units listed for courses in the plan. MM states that total units (see page 2 of proposal) should reflect variable unit courses.

MM states that the proposal should specify that the SYRCE course is currently going through the approval process.

AG points out that the title of the program should be consistent throughout the proposal. ES notes that the title should be "Communications Studies" (not Communication and Media Studies).

There is a discussion about including 160AB (Humanities Learning Community) in the requirements for COMS majors: whether it is okay to restrict this course to COMS students and if enough students can be accommodated. TW mentions that these courses may be offered as larger-seat sections and the size could be managed and adjusted year to year in order to accommodate the number of COMS students.

ED points out statement about SB1440 on page 14 of proposal and asks if it's okay to be "in conflict" with SB1440. ES states that impaction trumps SB1440, so COMS is not actually in conflict.

MM requests that this statement regarding SB1440 is reworded in the COMS proposal. NR expresses that many of the changes to COMS seem to be happening for negative reasons and asks whether MC feels that this change is improving things.

MC says that this revision will improve program in the following ways: 1. Students can more easily finish and navigate major; 2. These changes will modernize the program. However, he also states that the reality is that these changes are being made within limitations that are influencing their options.

CW suggests that COMS may want to remove the information on page 14 about department concerns and the admissions policy. TW disagrees and feels that this information should not be removed, because it reflects responses to concerns posed by EPC.

MM points out that R. Senghas (at ExCom) will probably be interested in hearing if these changes are motivated by the budget or curriculum.

Committee votes to approve proposal. There are 2 abstentions.

The following changes should be made to proposal: Make sure unit values and COMS title are consistent throughout proposal; Add information about SYRCE going through approval process; Revise wording related to SB1440.

Remaining New Business Items

Election of EPC Chair for next year: MM runs for re-election and is unopposed. MM is voted in and will remain EPC chair for next year.

Final Exam Policy: MM notes that there is no need to act on this item.

Schedule 25 Committee: MM asks for volunteers to join Schedule 25 task force. NR volunteers.

EPC Email Voting Policy: This will be discussed at the 3/27 EPC meeting and no email voting will occur before that date.

Meeting adjourns at 12:50.