

EPC minutes, 2/9/12

Quorum reached 11:06am: Armand Gilinsky (chair), Mark Perry (proxy for Carmen Works), Joe Marquez, Christina Baker, Melinda Milligan, Amy Kittelstrom (minutes), Elaine Sundberg, Jeffrey Reader, Elaine Newman, Jeff Young

Agenda approved, minutes approved.

AG reports Music program approved; Arminana reported facing permanent cut of \$7 million; exploration of possible shared online master's program with Chico and Sac State

AG reports from APC budget proposal on the way to Senate

ES will give us an update in March on the Early Start unfunded mandate; from chancellor's office, the outcome of the October GE assessment conference will be repeated in June to continue to work on a programmatic assessment plan for GE, and there will be a webinar for mid-career faculty Apr. 23, and Melinda Barnard is working with professional development subcommittee to make participating faculty eligible for mini-grants

JR no report on Grad Studies Subcommittee; ES reports that the nurse practitioner curriculum is being changed, and the MBA program is also looking to make some major revisions but it is unclear what they are. AG explained the revisions and his reservations about them; EN wants to know what is really being asked; JR called it a line of credit; MM asks if they're afraid to do the changes if they are not guaranteed to be approved; ES and EN would like to see a completed proposal rather than the sketch ES saw; AG asks can a department change a program without EPC approval; ES no. EN observes that we don't need to approve the plan to revise and got the clarification from AG that the dean wants the revision and the faculty is split over the proposal.

AG invited MM to talk about the revision to the sociology major. Had added a GE course to area D1/Ethnic Studies (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity), raising the question of how to add this new lower-division course to the major, given that they had a cap of four units on lower-division courses majors could count, which they would like to raise to eight. AG asked for clarification in the rationale on why the change is necessary, what the benefit will be. MM explained that the change allows students to receive credit for both Soc 201 and 263. EN moved to waive first reading; JR seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Second reading: ES is fine with this proposal but asked whether they would consider making Soc 201 a four-unit course, and MM responded with the constraints in terms of scheduling right now, which they would like to surmount. JR asks whether students are now going over the forty units to get their major; MM confirms they often are, although internships modify the tallies. MP asks whether there is another lower-division class they can take; MM no. ES and MM observe that the lower-division course gives native students something to do. MM pointed out that only four of the units can be non-SSU transfer credit (JR suggested a clarification of the wording.) JR moves to call the question; EN seconded. Revision unanimously approved.

Karin Jaffe from Anthropology: they are removing Anth 342 from the upper division core so that cultural anthropology does not get over-represented, making it an elective; they are moving the 400-level courses into a new methods requirement rather than leaving them

within the sub-field requirements. Will alleviate bottleneck and benefit the students in terms of selection, variety, and the reliability of a methods course being offered. KJ passed out an addendum on learning objectives, which emphasize ethics as part of their plan for learning outcomes. AG commented that this looks like an exemplary proposal, and raised questions about what the proposed exit survey might look like. ES asked whether a student interested in a particular area could do both 313 and 414, e.g.; KJ said they cannot make one a prereq for the other, but recommend them both for majors, and this is owing to the constraints of course rotations and availability. EN moved to waive the first reading; JM seconded. JR asked impact on lower-division transfer; KJ is on the relevant committee and doesn't anticipate any impact. JR moves to call the question; MM seconds. Proposal unanimously approved.

Thaine Stearns and Gillian Parker on Philosophy department curriculum changes. They implemented the changes EPC recommended in the fall, including dividing the proposal into three and the creation of a matrix of impact on student learning outcomes. EN thanked the faculty for the reorganization and asked for clarification of the approval by the school committee, which is there by electronic signature. JR moves to call the motion; MM seconded. Proposal unanimously approved.

PR subcommittee report. EN responded positively to ES's statement about streamlining the process and asked why the PR should come to a university committee unless it's looked at from a university perspective. ES noted the resource issue and the uncertainty of what impact the budget contraction will have on the process. TS commented that all the PRs have come through EPC and suggested that deans could get involved upfront with the process of what the next generation of PRs might look like. EN likes the idea of dean involvement and a more targeted PR, but asked about the external reviewer, which ES suggested could be someone who had expertise in the targeted area the department has identified. EN noted that the product will be different, but potentially better given how unwieldy the product was up to now. AG advocates simplifying the process and providing better direction for the future.

Stephen Galloway will forward the completed letter to Sandra Feldman of Ukiah. SG suggested that strategic decisions about what the university should look like could emerge from the PR process. He recommends that the format should reflect the strategic planning process, to make the information useful. ES agrees with SG. EN also agrees, hears SG saying that a university-level response to PRs should feed the strategic planning process, and wonders whether the whole PR policy needs to be changed in order to give structure or focus to departments. The reduced size of the faculty is a particular issue to press, EN says; SG responds how can we downsize strategically; AG says grow and reinvest are preferable ways of talking about this. JR agrees with the importance of aligning the PR process with the university's strategic goals and recommends retaining a degree of autonomy because departments are aligning themselves with changing trends in their fields and their disciplines. ES thinks there is already language in the PR policy for departments to pursue their own objectives and reminds how much work is involved in rewriting a policy. EN agreed.

Meeting adjourned 12:53.