

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes: September 29, 2011
Recorded by: Christina Baker

Members Present: Armand Gilinsky, chair; Jeffrey Reeder; Christina Baker; Carmen Works; Elaine Newman; Joe Marquez. Emiliano Ayala for Mary Dingle. K. Hower (Spelling?) for Paul Ramey.

Liaisons Present: Elaine Sundberg and Chingling Wo

ES asks for information on the outcome of the philosophy proposal, which was discussed at 9/15 meeting. Requests information as to why philosophy was asked to redo entire document and why separate documents are needed. Suggests we may need to be clearer about what is needed from departments.

- Are separate forms needed if a 3 to 4 unit change affects other parts of major or minor?
- JR suggests that if there is only a redistribution of units, perhaps all forms are not necessary.
- CW and EN respond: Committee felt philosophy's proposal was unclear. There was also confusion with the time that philosophy rep was expected to show up to EPC 9/15 meeting.
- Overall, committee consensus is that philosophy proposal needs to be more clear and that the 9/15 meeting with philosophy was not considered the first reading.

Reports

AG: Explains that there were not many outcomes to report from GE subcommittee. New course reviews for Anthro and Soc were tabled.

Gender exploratory work group proposed a name change to include the term "sexuality."

ES: ES plans to bring proposed academic calendar (up to 2017) to next meeting.

Department of Ed, through WASC, is requiring written policy on credit hours...number of hours students spend in and out of class for each unit. Need a definition for nontraditional learning.

2 departments are expected to have updates for catalogue (Oct. 14). Changes need to get to senate by fall term to appear in catalogue.

ES plans to change unit outlines in catalogue to reflect new 50-unit GE pattern.

ES specifies that a 1-unit change in courses does not require committee review.

New Business: New Major in Early Childhood Education (First Reading)

Introductions. Visitors representing early childhood ed. major proposal: C. Bacigalupa, J. Flip-Hanke, J. Kornfeld, G. Olson, Paula Lane

- Revision to proposal: New major adds 8 units in fall and 9 units in spring.
- Discussion of the need for this new major at SSU: California schools have changed requirements for pre-school teachers, and now the majority of teachers in a school need a BA. Many preschool teachers will now need to go back to school to earn a BA. A minor in early child ed. is not sufficient to meet early childhood ed BA requirements. No other local public university offers this major.

- Committee asks questions about whether school of ed is prepared for advising freshmen, since this would be the first undergrad degree offered in the school.
 - Responses: Faculty have experience working with undergrads. Some faculty are already advising students who are minoring in early childhood ed or majoring in human dev. Faculty also work with FYE students. Also, all faculty are former teachers and are comfortable working with students of various ages.
- A letter from Coordinator of Human Development program in support for new major is distributed
- EN requests a letter of support from all departments that are affected by the new major and expresses concern about the effect on impacted majors. CW seconds this request.
 - JF suggests that, based on the number of expected majors, very few early childhood ed majors would enroll in elective courses in other departments. Most would take courses within the school of ed that meet the prerequisites for the teaching credential program.
- CW asks question about the availability of resources for the new major.
 - Response: The dean has been very supportive of the new major. 417 and 420 are flexible courses that can accommodate students.
- AG asks about the impact of new major on diversity.
 - Response: Expect that many of the students will be returning/transfer students who have been working in the field. Department plans to offer on-line, evening and weekend classes to accommodate these students. Also, the First5 and Cares Plus program will provide financial assistance to some students.
- C. Wo asks about the diversity of the faculty.
 - Response: Some of the faculty are bilingual in English and Spanish
- AG moves for a 2nd reading
 - Letter of support from all departments affected by new major will be requested by C. Bacigalupa and forwarded to AG. Letters will be included in next packet for EPC.
- JP reports on Graduate Studies Subcommittee
 - Graduate studies showcase is being planned.
 - Question of how program review could affect graduate studies
- EN reports on APC meeting
 - There was a discussion of a possible e-portfolio requirement.
 - There was a discussion of academic priorities. 3 top priorities that were discussed at meeting seemed to be: hiring, academic technology, and advising.

AG begins a discussion of the importance of the role of advising students. Would cross-disciplinary advising be possible? Does advising fall under the purview of EPC?

- CW states that another subcommittee is responsible for advising. Not EPC.
- ES poses the question of how advising of undergrads should be restructured. How can we best advise students who are not progressing as they should, in terms of grades or number of units? We may need to be more creative about moving students through to graduation.
- Should there be degree progress report training for students and faculty?

- Discussion about the fact that there are some faculty who are especially great at advising and love doing it. Should the university have designated ‘super’ advisors?
- Some departments have professional advisors available to their students.
- There should be a stronger connection between academic advising and career advising

AG announces that CW will chair the next EPC meeting.

Discussion of M. Merickel’s visit on Oct. 27.

- Andy Merrifield is invited to join EPC meeting with M. Merickel
- EN requests a list of all extended ed programs.
- Discussion of the perception of the connection between extended ed courses and SSU faculty. Is there a perception that extended ed courses have been vetted through SSU faculty?

AG requests that committee inform him of any changes coming up within departments (other than unit changes) so that he may add them to the list of items “On the Horizon”

Name corrections on 9/29 agenda: Jeffrey Reader (misspelled on members list) and Christina Baker (misspelled on list of members responsible for recording minutes)

Chingling Wo requests that documents sent out to prior to meetings EPC are also sent to her.

Meeting adjourns.