

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes for October 26, 2006

Members Present: Mary Halavais (chair), Steve Bittner, Sharon Cabaniss, Rick Robison, Kirsten Ely, Lillian Lee, Thaine Stearns (minutes recorder), Lynne Morrow, Perry Marker (proxy for Brett Christie), Jarrod Russell, Carmen Works, Carol Blackshire-Belay.

MH called meeting to order at 10:47

MH moved to add YRO calendar to agenda as business item #1.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from 10/12/2006 approved.

Reports:

Chair Report: MH announced that in her role as chair she made a charge to GSS prior to their 10/13/2006 meeting **Copy of 10/18/06 charge:**

TO: Margie Purser, Chair, Graduate Studies

FROM: Mary Halavais, Chair, EPC

RE: Charge to consult and report on graduate admissions at SSU

In my capacity as chair of the Educational Policies Committee, I request that your committee confer and report to EPC on the following questions about graduate study here at Sonoma State University:

*What are the standards for admission to the various graduate programs currently in operation?

*What is each program's capacity or upper limit in terms of number of students?

*Has your committee discussed the possibility of incorporating a separate graduate division into the current "schools" structure of SSU?

*Would your committee be willing and/or able to provide oversight for the admission of new graduate students, considering standards and capacity of each program?

*Might it be possible to require that all graduate students be admitted to a specific graduate program at the time of their admission to the university? What might be the drawbacks to such a move?

*In terms of educational policy and our educational mission, are there any benefits associated with admitting unclassified graduate students or post-bac students? What might these be?

*As I am sure you committee knows, graduate education is qualitatively different from undergraduate instruction. Do standards for admission to any graduate program need to be set by faculty who are expert in their respective fields, or is it possible to admit graduate students with reference to an undergraduate GPA only? How ought we to decide upon the GPA required for graduate admission?

Please do not limit yourselves to the above questions in your deliberations, but if you could address them it would be helpful.

Finally, since I do not know your committee's schedule for the time ahead, could you let me know when it would be possible for you to report back to EPC?

Thank you - and all the members of your committee - for your continued work toward faculty governance and graduate education on our campus.

Vice-Provost Report (CBB): Producing notes from the 10/16 CSU peer visit. Peer Visit went well, overwhelmingly positive comments from reviewers.

APC Liaison Report (SR deferred to JR): JR discussed current work groups set up in APC

GSS Report: TS: Reported on GSS response to EPC charge. GSS is prioritizing elements in the charge to give precedence to immediate concerns.

GE Subcommittee: KE: GES considering lifting moratorium on new GE course submissions. 3 work groups set up in GES: 1) Potential GE reform patterns 2) Assessment of current GE 3) how to build Assessment into ongoing GE reform

Senate Budget Committee: SB: Discussion of report on FYE budget to SBC (required in Senate approval of FYE pilot)

Business:

1. YRO Calendar: MH brought back YRO calendar proposal postponed from 10/12/2006.
 - a. SC suggested that the questions in EPC surrounding the calendar be referred to the Executive Committee for direction. Several members spoke in support of that suggestion.
 - b. PM said that the School of Education was excited and in support of YRO.
2. Report on Oct. 16 CSU peer visit (Steve and Rick):
 - a. Concern over possible move from 3 units to 4 units

- b. FYE and GE reform
- 3. Revisiting the charge to the GE subcommittee (TS): TS brought back to the table for discussion SC's motion from 8/31 meeting.
 - a. MH asked TS to chair this agenda item
 - b. Discussion ensued, in part in re: report from GES liaison KE (see "Reports" in minutes above).
 - c. Result: TS recommended, per suggestions from committee members, that, instead of a formal charge to GES, that MH ask Nathan Rank, chair of GE Subcommittee, to report back to EPC at end of February 2007 on developments in plan for assessing current GE.
- 4. AMCS Proposal for 4 Credit major courses: 1st Reading (Leilani Nishime)
 - a. Discussion ensued: members asked regarding course numbers
 - b. Suggestion from CBB about reorganizing proposal into three parts for clarification.
 - c. MH suggested to LH second reading in 1 month rather than 2 weeks.

Meeting Adjourned, 12:49 p.m.