

**Educational Policies Committee**  
**Minutes: March 4, 2004**

Present: Nick Geist, Elaine Sundberg, Elaine McDonald, Art Warmoth, Greta Vollmer, Mary Halavais, Karen Brodsky, Robert Coleman-Senghor

Not Present: Vincent Richmond, Andy Wallace, Tom Cooke, Ruthann Daniel-Harteis

**1) Announcements:**

Art Warmoth presented the “Summary of Proposed changes in the Psychology Major Requirements.” In response to inquiries, he explained that the cross-listing of courses with other departments allowed for more choice, and support for other courses in other departments. The changes do no more than change the status of the supporting requirements. This is a more targeted way to get support from other departments and also makes advising easier in some ways. Clarification was offered that the EPC vote was on changes in the major, not the cross-listing issue (Cross-listing is worked out with the departments involved.)

A suggested change to wording - “to strengthen the psychological focus of elective units with in the major” - was accepted. Vote was called on the summary with amended wording. Passed unanimously.

**2) Interim Program Review: Political Science Dept.**

Guest: Robert McNamara

R. McNamara presented an overview of a few minor changes in the Poli Sci IPR, to wit: There are 8 full-time faculty, with Robert A. Smith now emeritus; David McKuen is the new hire. A new course has been created: POLS 304 Intro to International Relations Students can now take either 304 or POLS 303 Intro to Comparative Politics

EM suggested that the 4 key subfields of Political Science be written into the introduction.

ES asked about the capstone course, which is offered every semester and taught by different faculty on a rotating basis. Is this a useful place of assessment for your program? Do you all get together and discuss? Share student work? Are you setting up exemplars of projects that represent high achievement?

R McN replied that the question of “Are we all assessing on the same page?” remains controversial but that as a faculty they were “pretty much in tune with what we’re looking for.” Students don’t work only with current professor but are required to go out and consult with other faculty. ES suggested that this be made explicit (i.e. that all faculty have input) in order to show that there is some evidence of formative (on-going) evaluation.

Susan Garfin (Guest) complimented the department on the quality of their Senior Seminar, which she has observed in action.

It was noted that first readings of IPR remain to be done for the following departments: ITDS, AMCS, Global Studies. It was decided to put them first up on regular 5 year review (approval process in Fall, begin Spring 2005)

### **3) IPR Review: Sociology Department**

Guest: Susan Garfin

SG gave an overview of the general status in her department. The number of majors has increased, and more are expected in the fall. The number of courses is now up in the air, due to the current budgetary crisis. They are experiencing severe staffing problems. She provided a copy of the Major Requirements and Advising worksheet.

SG pointed out that a Mission Statement is a problematic undertaking given the current lack of control over courses, course loads, and the budget. EmcD acknowledged that “heavy duty” assessment cannot happen without support; she also noted that a mission statement can be used to support faculty in times of budget crisis.

AW argued that we need to be more explicit about our rationales for our pedagogy. For example, EPC should be able to say that we endorse the pedagogical mission & vision of sociology. Hence, a reason to develop a mission statement. The academic integrity of Sociology has been severely compromised and a mission statement could serve as an advocacy tool.

AW requested the Sociology Dept. to write a brief document to this effect and bring to the committee for review. SG agreed to do so.

### **4) IPR Review: History Department**

Guest: Randall Dodge

RD reported that the major has been changed significantly in that History 391 (formerly a required course) has been removed, as it cannot be staffed. To compensate, elements of historiography and methods are now incorporated into upper division courses.

US History and World Civilization lower division courses (paired) used to be required and students can now opt out of one of those. In their place, specified upper division courses are offered as possible replacements for one of each pair. The effect is to remove them from GE courses and for students to get similar content in a course designed for majors. This reduces numbers in GE classes and also gives majors more options. The department plans to pick specific courses outside the major that can be used in an effort to encourage students to take a broader ranges of topics. This is still under consideration. A copy of the departments “Graduating Student Questionnaire” was

requested by EPC and will be forwarded on. RD noted that there was currently no funding to support this effort.

## **5) Extended Education Report**

Guest: Les Adler

LA provided members with an Annual Report for Extended Education and a current Advertising insert from the SR Press Democrat. He reported that the Summer & intersession remain strong; January was the largest intersession yet, and they expect summer to be larger. The Special sessions Degree Programs (Psychology, Liberal Studies and MS CCS (Computer Science) continue to grow. SALI experienced a post 9/11 downturn but is coming back.

LA announced two new certificate programs: Inbuilding (Environmental Studies and Planning) which is going well, and Emergency and Disaster Planning, which is underway. They are in the process of developing a Children's Mental Health certificate program. Through the Green Farm, Extended Ed has taken on management of the art/education program and this summer will offer an Arts & Ideas weeklong symposium entitled "Arts and Its Place." (sic) LA noted that EE is trying to develop new programs that will provide revenue, to work with schools to elicit ideas for programs that might go on self-support, and to find ways to support university.

Discussion of the issue of programs going on "self-support" ensued. It was noted that the Chancellor's office has been advocating for grad programs to move into self-support mode. Concern was voiced about the financial impact for students, who must pay significantly more for courses.

Questions and concerns included the following:

ES: How are programs currently in self-support being handled?

LA: There's a tremendous variety. With each program, there is a lot of negotiation regarding cost, number of students, how many would stay.

ES expressed concern as to whether programs, once moved, would ever return to the university proper. Is this a long-term benefit for CSU question or short-term budget fix?

LS pointed out that not all programs can make that shift without losing students.

Business programs, for example, are heavily subsidized whereas others are not.

ES: The problem is that if they're successful, there is less urgency to bring them back. They are doomed by the success of an immediate quick-fix.

GV asked how teaching in EE is different than the regular teaching load.

LA: Nothing changes; EE pays the replacement costs of the release time.

Curriculum oversight and choice of faculty remains in hands of the department.

Adjuncts would be on a different salary schedule than for regular courses, however.

BCS questioned the issue of replacement costs for the department,

LA: That would be part of negotiated agreement with individual departments.

BCS pointed that the the issue of privatizing graduate programs leads to greater indebtedness for certain disciplines. He noted that eventually EPC will have to take a

position on this issue, arguing that we need to determine whether this is feasible for departments. This is not yet a mandate from Chancellor. What are our standards for testing these changes? What will the impact be?

EMcD noted that a list of questions such as these would be helpful. But EPC doesn't have the authority to prevent departments from doing this.

There was some discussion as to whether in fact EPC has the authority to rule on this issue or whether this is by recommendation only. ES agreed to research past decisions and report back.

#### **6) IPR Campus Task Force:**

Task Force members now include Edy Mendez, Karen Edstam, Rick Robison, Margie Purser, Elizabeth Martinez, Carlos Benito, Greta Vollmer, Elaine Sundberg. Certain representatives are still missing, e.g. APC, GE, Science & Technology, Bus & Econ, Education, Hutchins. Elaine will notify Greta of all members currently nominated. Greta will convene initial meeting of task force.

Week of March 22 is WASC Visit; duly noted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Greta Vollmer, Recorder