

EPC Minutes

Feb 25, 2010

Present

Members: Carmen Works (chair), Thaine Sterns, Melinda Milligan, Sharon Cabaniss, Karen Grady, Lynne Morrow, Armand Gilinsky, Sheila Cunningham, Mateo Clark, Lillian Lee, Jenny Tice (Student Rep), Chingling Wo (substitute for Thaine Sterns, as noted in minutes)

Liaison:

Elaine Sundberg for Academic Programs

Call to order @ 11:04 am

Agenda

Consent items on agenda are GE science lab and ethnic studies. WGS 255 was approved by GE committee. WGS 255 is a 4 unit course. Learning objectives for ethnic studies was in packet and sent by email. These are new learning objectives. Sharon had a question about the learning objectives and whether EPC should review them. The group response was that these have already gone through the GE subcommittee. For example, Ethnic Studies and GE subcommittee had agreed that ethnic studies course should cover the US.

Thaine would like the committee to take up question of double major policy for SSU. Carmen will bring this into a future agenda and will discuss in report.

Agenda approved @ 11:12 am.

Minutes

Minutes from 2/11/2010. Approved without changes at 11:12 am.

Reports

Carmen Works: Asked how many EPC members will be on committee next semester. An EPC chair is needed for next year. The chair works on the bi-weekly meeting agenda, serves as a liaison on the executive committee, goes to the academic senate, and JCAP. The position requires about 4-6 hrs/week of meetings, excluding emails and other logistics. The EPC chair should receive a "course release", which is negotiated with a dean. In 2 meetings from now, EPC should hold an election for a chair.

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Elaine Sunberg: Provost Ochoa was nominated by the Obama administration to be assistant secretary of education, but has to be approved by the US Senate. Approval may be held up by politics, but Obama does have ability to confirm over recess. Expectation is that Ochoa will leave within 1-2 months. There will be an interim Provost assigned by the SSU President. There is planning occurring regarding succession of outstanding tasks to be implemented. Ochoa is hoping to hire a diversity coordinator, which is a faculty release position. He is interested in moving the faculty GE coordinator release position forward. Both of these positions would be half time. Ochoa is committed to move forward on the issue of time to graduation.

Thaine Sterns: Reminded Elaine that the GE coordinator position is awaiting approval of funds, which has been pending since Thaine was EPC chair. Elaine will discuss this with Ochoa and come back to EPC with more information. EPC discussed bringing Ochoa to EPC.

Carmen: "Deliverology" – an initiative from the Chancellor's office. JCAP has been taking up this initiative. Eventually EPC will be brought into this discussion.

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Carmen: New courses will be sent by email. However, if there is a bulk of new classes, then the materials may need to be brought to EPC if a member requests it. If there is a program change, then this needs to come to EPC.

Carmen: University courses are being proposed by Jeff Davis. He is director of programs (an MPP), even though he is an adjunct. His staff are SSPs, who can bring forward courses as well. There are 2 University courses that Carmen will bring to EPC next meeting.

Carmen: The Engineering name change process was stopped at the executive committee. After Jagan Agrawal clarifies that there will be no impact on graduation time, then he will re-submit.

Business Items

Liberal Arts program at Solano JC, second reading: Elaine Leeder, R. Karlsbrud, R. Rosen Thaine – motions to refer the question of adjunct faculty by FSAC, to look at larger issue of how faculty are hired in programs like this. Armond seconds the motion. Thaine restates motion: refer the discussion of adjunct faculty in Napa and Solano programs to FSAC. Discussion: Elaine Leeder would like to restrain discussion to the Solano program, not Napa. R. Karlsbrud states from experience at Napa that 14 of 20 courses were taught by faculty. Many of the faculty are senior level. He would like to have the opportunity to discuss the larger benefits of hiring in FSAC. Carmen clarifies that the issue is how faculty are being hired, rights that they have, etc., whereas EPC deals with curriculum. Thaine does not believe this should hold up approval of program from EPC, but wants issues of faculty hiring and rights get addressed by faculty governance. Elaine Sunberg: This will have to go through WASC after approved by EPC and Academic Senate. In that forum, there will be a discussion of faculty hiring. The Napa program went through WASC, and it was approved without any revision. Motion approved: 8 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions.

Armond and Sharon motion to approve the program. Discussion: Thaine has motions to append the Solano document with 2 modifications. Thaine emphasizes that he is in favor of the program.

Motion #1: Amend the budget distribution being proposed so that profits are distributed back to the departments that are overseeing the hiring and curriculum of program. Second by Lilian. R. Karlsbrud agrees with Thaine, to find a way to distribute profits, whatever they are. He notes that also the Dean has costs. R. Rosen believes that he could capture the distribution on a revised budget. Unanimous approval for motion #1 by EPC.

Motion #2. Amend the constitution of curriculum overview committee so that it has members of faculty from all of the schools that participate in the program. Second by Lilian. Melinda asks if the max or min number of faculty will be set depending on how a department is involved in the program? Thaine: It currently states 5 faculty. Perhaps the library wants representation? Motion to amend motion so that it includes the library. This will increase the committee from 5 to 6 members. Lynn seconded this motion. All approved the amendment of the motion. Elaine Leeder: it is a great idea, but it is difficult to get faculty to serve on the committees. Sharon: Not sure how proportions are assigned. Where does the

Dean of social science fit in? Carmen: Deans are welcome to attend but do not vote. Faculty members are chair. Original motion: unanimous approval.

Original motion to approve program by Armond, second Sharon. Approved by EPC, unanimously @ 11:56 am.

Elaine Sunberg report: Faculty should remind Provost Ochoa to not forget SSU and CSU and how important funding is for us. The President and Provost were at WASC for final approval. Accreditation letter should be coming in a week or two. It will be posted on the portfolio website. WEPT policy is being designed to be short and pithy for EPC to discuss. CSU student research competition – students can go to competition and present research, deadline March 8, 5-page summary. Metamorphosis – undergraduate journal, asking to have students submit papers by April 1. Paper has to come in from faculty member, and it should come from faculty mentorship. In the future, this could be a formal competition with faculty review.

Chingling Wo– proxy for Thaine Sterns came to EPC

Proposed changes in GE from A and H

Carmen started discussion by referring to the table on Pg 3 of Tim Wandling's materials from Feb 11, 2010 – "A newly revised GE package in arts and humanities". The table shows how the areas have been revised.

Lynn: Does C4 disappear? Tim: No, it goes from C4 to C3. No department should substantially change their courses. The process has been difficult, it is a process of change, and it is a moving target. Tim came with an example catalog copy. He emphasized that ultimately the GE subcommittee would write such a document. These are samples, and the C3 name has changed from "Seminar in comparative perspectives and oral communication" to "comparative perspectives and foreign language". Tim thinks that the word "seminar" in the section title would be too limiting. Carmen: states that we must agree on the language, and not keep changing it. Tim: What is needed by EPC is approval to 1) change from 51 to 50 units pattern; 2) waive the 3-unit requirement for GE courses; and, 3) reorganization of program from 7-5 areas. Sharon: question about resources. Is this going to entail having more small courses because of seminars, and will this be a resource issue? Tim: it already is a resource issue, and we already do not offer enough of them, and this plan does not fix the resource issue. However, this restructuring gives a plan to go forward, but it was done with the assumption that there would be no negative impacts on departments, i.e., no reduction in FTEs. Melinda: Feels that the language describing each category needs to be clear before approval, even though learning objectives will come later by GE committee once proposal approved by EPC. Tim's new sample was just designed by him, not vetted. Sharon: Suggests that EPC can approve it, then send it to GE to refine language, send back to EPC, before going to executive committee and Senate. Elaine Sundberg believes that details are purview of GE subcommittee and that EPC can agree to these changes in principal and will work to resolve details of language.

Karen motions to approve 3 items: 1) approval to change GE pattern from 51 to 50 units change; 2) waiver of the 3-unit standard for GE courses; 3) combine program from 7-5 areas. Sharon seconded the motion. Discussion. Armond believes that it would be "cleaner" to have 3 separate motions, one for each item, as he sees need for some debate on the waiver issue. Tim: discussed his experience with 3-unit courses in English. Carmen: discussed how the waiver and collapsing of areas go together. Tim: This restructure will change the total number of courses offered, but doesn't change the FTES. Students will take fewer courses, but get the same units. Students get more depth but less breadth. Chingling Wo:

students will have to take fewer classes, and so there may be less chance to run short of classes.

Carmen: question is will students learn less? This will be brought up by GE. Armond: there will be less leverage to hire new faculty, because there is less need for faculty with more interdisciplinary or specialized skills. He wanted to state for the record: There will be unintended consequences. Tim: other programs will have to rearticulate to the new organization; ie., Global Studies and FYE. Armond: the reorganization could de-emphasize certain programs, such as music or arts, and open them up to future cuts. Carmen: reminder that EPC is not voting on titles. Armond: reorganization, even without the titles, could have this unintended impact. Tim: States that the planning assumption from March 2009, is that the process should not have any detrimental impact on departments. Sharon: there will be a desire to take the 4 units out of expediency, or take too many units because they took several courses that didn't meet the 12 units. EPC approved the three items unanimously @ 12:48 pm.

Tim: GE did not act on dual-language competency issue. He suggests that EPC look at proposal by Jeffery Reader to have a test of dual-language competency exam. Elaine Sundberg: the language competency issue does need to go through EPC. Carmen: could bring it on agenda for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned. 12:50pm.