

EPC MINUTES, March 5, 2009

Members present: Thaine Stearns, chair, Carmen Works, Sheila Cunningham, Dolly Freidel, Melinda Barnard, Robert Eyler, Karen Grady, Tristan Kelley, Sharon Cabaniss, Bob Coleman-Senghor, (I will check my agenda on this list.)

Call to Order 11 a.m.

TS – Add to agenda EPC Chair Item, Time Certain 11:30 a.m.

Agenda approved.

Minutes of February 19, 2009 approved

Chair's report: TS –

1. The EPC Committee previously moved to bring Dean Merikel of Extended Ed to meet with the committee. Karen and TS are working on MOU with Extended Ed. The committee will need a full report from Dean Merikel on the activities of Extended Ed.
2. The EPC Committee asked Jagan ---, Engineering for information regarding the use of Engineering Department facilities with other units. See Spreadsheet 07-S09.
3. Regarding Program Review assignments, see handout.

CW, GE Report –

1. Program Review of GE is completed in draft form.
2. Engineering has submitted for approval a new GE Area B3 course. This proposal has brought up the question, what constitutes a lab course? CW asked GE Chair Nathan Rank for criteria regarding lab courses.
3. Regarding the proposed change units for GE courses from 3 to 4, Tim Wandling proposed to change all Area A and Area C GE courses to four units. This would require elimination of one section of Area C. The GE subcommittee has been having difficulties obtaining Area A syllabi for inclusion in the committee's analysis.

Time Certain Steve Norwick, ENSP, presenting proposal to create new (old) ENSP Concentration Water Quality and Hazardous Materials Management. This has been an unofficial concentration in the ENSP major for 30 years. It is supported by courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Geology. It has also been well supported by the community.

ES: How many of the courses are GE double counts? SN: four. Is there a BA/BS option? Yes. The BS requires an extra year of Physics. The Concentration requires a year of each of the following: calculus, computer science, organic chemistry.

DF move to waive first reading, SCunningham seconded. Discussion: SCabannis: if we do approve waiving first reading, we should require editing as indicated by ES's questions. Approved. Second reading: Discussion. RE moved to approve ENSP Concentration, Water Quality and Hazardous Materials Management, pending adding answers to ES questions, requesting clarification in the document. SC seconded. SC: if approved will it change the status of students? SN: This will put the Concentration title on the student's diploma. Vote: approved unanimously.

TS: This proposal will now go to the Executive Committee. He will recommend placed on Senate Agenda as a consent item.

TS: Time Certain. Vote for Chair of EPC for next year, 09-10. Nominations by email. Senate requested that committees establish chairs for fall as they have one course release each semester. SC: nominate Carmen Works, if TS does not accept nomination. Seconded. Will keep nominations open until the 19th and then take a vote.

Reports:

CW: What does EPC think about the proposal to make all GE courses 4 units? RE: Present unit minimum for Area C is 12 units. How should this Area be collapsed from three classes into two? DF: Area D is the same. RE: Could this be worked out by School? It's a resource allocation issue. CW: recall the Schools don't own specific Areas. TS: Now while GE is being revised is a good time to revisit policy. The proposed unit change could be used to defeat good ideas before they have been properly considered. RS-C: As the policy reads now, are there a sufficient number of units or courses within each Area? The current item is not a proposal now; it is rather a discussion. Each CSu is different in how they place GE courses within each Area. We should look at how other universities handle GE. This discussion is now in the School Curriculum Committees. MB: She has heard that all Arts and Humanities GE courses are going to four units, Each Department would have to come forward to EPC for approval of the unit change for each course. CW: Tim Wandling has been visiting GE subcommittee meetings regarding changing Area A and Area C to four units. These can be changed on the Master Catalog Change Form. TS: Philosophy is proposing keeping their GE courses at three units. SCabannis: We should ask GE to revisit the policy; it should be part of the GE Program Review, not be considered separately. Going to all four unit courses should also be part of Program Review. RE: Area B should also be considered, regarding the lab issue, as defined through the CSU. CW: What is our broad interpretation? Changing our lab policy might allow some students to avoid having a true science experience.

Reports: Academic Programs:

MB: 1. A task force is looking at policy for re-entry of graduate students to the University after a hiatus.

2. Regarding Graduate Studies, the Saturday University Program could be offering graduate programs completely through Extended Ed, yet students are earning SSU degrees. The faculty in these programs may not be part of the SSU faculty.

TS: He made a motion in the Senate regarding faculty emeriti to have FSAC look at the definition of "faculty". This is an issue related to Saturday University courses. FSAC'S determination would help define EPC's position. The Senate definition of "faculty" seems ambiguous. He recommends going to Structure & Functions for a resolution of this question. SC: Student Professionals are also teaching. Suggests talking with Andy Merrifield regarding Extended Ed and SPP faculty. This is a Statewide issue. We should be sensitive to those who have taught for years but are not "faculty". They should be treated with respect, to make clear they are colleagues, not "other". KG: The President seems to hear concerns regarding Extended Ed. TS: Would the committee wish to have the President visit EPC?

University Standards Subcommittee: New policies for approval coming in April. This would be a good time for other questions, policies. EPC doesn't have a liaison from University Standards.

APC: RS-C: committee is working on "dashboard" to account for relationship between workload, mission, etc. Particular work is on looking at the difference, e.g. between CS codes and classes where the mission of the class is different. SSU is a Liberal Arts School, so this is an issue of University size. CS codes should not put departments in a negative situation. APC recommendation to departments to look at CS codes to make sure they are appropriate for the actual courses. For example, a seminar course with 40 students should use a different CS code to allow for such a large course. This would help in better managing workload and enrollment targets to protect department offerings, to help maintain the major. It would, for example, help prevent a school manager from saying that a course is "under enrolled". We are in survival mode regarding taking on overloads to make target. APC is trying to bring uniformity to the CS system.

Time Certain: Dept. of Philosophy. Attending, Andy Wallace, John Sullens,, Gillian Parker. First reading for new Concentration: Pre-law and Applied Ethics. AW: We are in the midst of a comprehensive reform of our curriculum as part of our Program Review. In response to feedback from our students and faculty regarding their interests, we have decided to make the course offerings "inter-sub-disciplinary". We are deleting four courses and all faculty have developed new curriculum. The goal is to make the curriculum more relevant to the students needs and interests. This proposed concentration builds off of the Program Review, to add nine units of core courses. Students could take added courses outside the concentration, also internships, such as legal aide work. The units don't change; there are fewer electives.

CW: Why not have students double count their GE courses with the major? AW: We want the students to take more Philosophy courses. CW: Some of the new courses are designed by new faculty; could they be taught if the faculty leave? AW: We want the current faculty to want to stay, to enjoy teaching. We are trying to create an unconventional department, bringing in history, literature, politics. We could not maintain the curriculum if one faculty member left. We're dependent on our current faculty, although most faculty could teach several of the courses. One other issue is that we may need another faculty specialist in law if the program is successful.

JW: How will the concentration affect post-graduate students? AW: Law schools will find our students competitive. Our students won't be so much trained for a PhD in Philosophy, but very few current students are interested in PhDs – most are interested in real world issues. This is a better all purpose use of philosophy.

SC: How would this impact junior transfers with a more standard background? Are any of the new courses proposed for GE?

AW: We're not changing unit values so transfers should be okay. We limit substitutions to six units. Regarding GE, the courses are being revised for philosophy majors. We want to focus on the majors.

JW: proposed to waive the first reading. KG seconded. Vote: First reading waived.

Second reading, Discussion: CW: Does the pre-law track require other courses? AW: students should take more applied ethics courses, an additional three units, but could be

outside the Philosophy Dept., e.g. Business Law, Legal Ethics. LM: Who keeps track of the other applicable courses. Is there a list of possible outside courses to accompany the proposal? RS-C: There should be a letter from such departments saying they'd be okay with serving Philosophy students in their courses.

TS: Ready to vote:

1. vote for program revision: all ayes 2. vote for new Pre-Law Concentration in Philosophy: all ayes. Proposal will go to the Executive Committee with recommendation for Senate consent calendar.