

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes for October 25, 2007

Members present: Thaine Stearns (chair), Phil Huang (proxy for Erin Bower), Carmen Works, Sharon Cabaniss, Lynne Morrow, Kirsten Ely, Katrina Svoboda, Mateo Clark, Lillian Lee, Elaine Sundberg (proxy for Carol Blackshire-Belay), and Steve Bittner (recorder).

Agenda approved.

Minutes for September 27 and October 11, 2007 approved as amended.

Business:

1. SC updated the committee on the status of EPC's procedures for program review. She said that the phrasing of her initial draft, presented on October 11, could be misconstrued as suggesting that EPC should engage in the same sort of thorough evaluation of departments as external reviewers. Therefore, SC said the following sentence should be deleted from the procedures: "The two-member review should address the following as well as other issues deemed necessary and make suggestions as appropriate." SC recommended that it be replaced by the following: "The two-member review should ascertain whether or not the following, as well as other issues as deemed necessary, have been addressed and make suggestions as appropriate."

LM said she wasn't sure there was any substantive difference between the two sentences. SB said the latter precluded EPC from sitting in judgment of the philosophical coherence and currency of departmental curricula. KE wondered why SC hadn't incorporated more input from the last meeting into her revisions, particularly KE's recommendation that EPC ask departments whether program review was valuable and/or onerous. CW recommended that EPC compile a checklist to evaluate the thoroughness of program reviews. TS said that the procedures for program review are an internal document, and will be easy to revise in the future should problems arise.

2. Jeffrey Reeder and Les Adler returned to EPC to discuss the M.A. Program in Spanish. Reeder indicated that erroneous language in the first redaction of the program description (discussed at EPC on October 11) had been corrected to eliminate confusion about the procedure for advancement to candidacy. LL asked about the classification of graduate students admitted on a provisional basis.

LL moved to change "status" to "credit" in article 3.1.6 of the program description.

SC seconded.

Approved unanimously.

SC moved to change "Associate Vice President for Academic Programs" to "Vice Provost for Academic Affairs" in article 3.1.1 of the program description.

KE seconded.

Approved unanimously.

KE moved to approve the M.A. Program in Spanish as amended.

LM seconded.

Approved unanimously.

3. Elizabeth Martinez told EPC about proposed changes to the CALS major/minor. She said that increasing numbers of students want to use the CALS major/minor to prepare for graduate work

in counseling or public affairs. The purpose of the proposed revisions is to create a major/minor that better serves this group. KE asked whether EPC needed to see a syllabus for CALS 480 since it is a new course. She also asked whether the GE subcommittee had reviewed the proposed changes to CALS 219 and 339. SB said that new courses are included on lists of proposed course additions, deletions, and changes that David Hartranft circulates. TS encouraged Martinez to proceed with catalog revisions. Martinez said she would return to EPC with a syllabus for CALS 480.

4. Joyce Chong told EPC about the status of UNIV 236. In September, EPC challenged the appropriateness of UNIV 236 after it was included on David Hartranft's list of proposed course additions. Chong said that Student Affairs oversees advising for all undeclared students. The purpose of UNIV 236 is to help students declare majors. KE asked whether the course was achieving its objective. SC and CW asked whether UNIV 236 and 102 were redundant. TS asked who had authority within Student Affairs to sign new course proposals. Chong said she will return to EPC with a copy of the syllabus for UNIV 236.

5. Elaine McDonald-Newman, Susan Herring, Ben Ford, Cora Neal, and Ai-Chu Wu told EPC about a proposal for two new degrees in statistics. The first degree, a B.A. in Applied Statistics, is intended for students from other disciplines as a second major. The second degree, a B.S. in Statistics, is intended for students who wish to work as statisticians or to pursue graduate work in statistics. It replaces the B.S. in Mathematics with a concentration in Statistics.

CW moved to waive the first reading.

SB seconded.

Approved unanimously.

KE moved to approve both majors.

CW seconded.

Approved unanimously.

6. Richard Senghas told EPC about a proposal to shift the focus in the Linguistics minor away from TESL toward descriptive linguistics. Students pursuing careers in education have found the latter focus valuable to their employment prospects. LM asked why the Linguistics program has a low profile on campus. Senghas said it was caused by insufficient release time for the coordinator of the program. SC asked whether the rationale for the proposed revisions was included in the supporting documents.

KE moved to waive the first reading.

LM seconded.

Approved unanimously.

KE moved to approve the revised Linguistics minor.

SB seconded.

Approved unanimously.

7. Richard Senghas told EPC about the proposal from the Department of Anthropology and Linguistics to discontinue the TESL certificate program. He said that enrollments have been too low to sustain the program, but students already in the program will be offered substitute courses that, in toto, fulfill the TESL requirements. LM asked about other TESL programs within California. MC asked when the TESL classes would be dropped. Senghas indicated that this had already occurred.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.