

Educational Policies Committee Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2012
11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sue Jameson Room

Abstract

Agenda approved. Minutes approved. Chair Report. Associate VP, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies Report. APC Liaison Report. Draft of Experimental GE Course Proposal Form - First Review. Policy for Off-Campus Proctored Exams - Second Reading - no consensus reached. Revision to Spanish MA Program approved unanimously. Conversation with Academic Senate Chair, Margie Purser.

Present: Armand Gilinsky (Chair), Jeffery Reeder, Christina Baker, Melinda Milligan, CarmenWorks, Mary Dingle, Carrie McDade, Elaine Sundberg, Elaine Newman, Lillian Lee.

Absent: Amy Kittelstrom, and the student representative

Meeting called to order 11:05 a.m.

Approval of Agenda - Agenda approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes (8/30/12)

Correction to B. b. 2113 to read 2013. Minutes approved as corrected.

Chair Report – A. Gilinsky

Chair, Armand Gilinsky, reported that Dean Merickel of the School of Extended Education gave EPC a preview of the SEE's budget. Dean Merickel will also be presenting the Academic Senate with a "state of the union" of the School of Extended Ed. EPC will invite the Dean to return to EPC with a preview of his presentation.

The mayor of Rohnert Park and the mayor of Cotati will be present at today's Academic Senate meeting.

On the proposal to eliminate the 9 units of upper division general education, should EPC and/or the GE Sub-Committee draft a statement in support of retaining the requirement?

Academic Senate Chair, Margie Purser, will be here for a discussion with EPC.

Associate VP for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies Report - E. Sundberg

Elaine Sundberg reported meeting with the Academic Planning Committee this morning.

She is writing an interim report for WASC which is due by November 1st. The report will focus on three things specifically - Program Review, GE, and the Graduation Initiative. Rheyna Laney and Michael Smith are writing the GE piece. John Kornfield is writing about the First Year Experience (FYE) and the Arts and Humanities Learning Communities. Lynn Stauffer and Sundberg are writing the Graduation Initiative piece. Deans and Departments are providing illustrations of successful use of Program Review, for example, the Biology Department used the process to create a new curriculum. And Sean Johnson (Institutional Research) is providing data.

Sundberg will have a draft available by October 1st and suggested EPC may want to put it on their 10/11/12 agenda to look over and discuss the Program Review piece. Feedback should be returned to her no later than 10/15.

APC Liaison Report - L. Lee

Lillian Lee reported that APC has begun discussing curriculum guidelines for Certificate Program proposals. Sundberg said that faculty have been coming to her informally with certificate program proposals and feels we need to direct them in the right direction regarding guidelines for creating such programs and assuring they are vetted by the academic departments.. Milligan also reported that her department was encouraged to come up with certificate program proposals.

New Business Item #1 - Experimental GE Course Form - Michael Smith - First Review

GE Sub-Committee Chair, Smith, reported that currently there is no formal course proposal form for experimental GE courses. So the GE Sub-Committee created one.

Sundberg added that experimental non-GE courses go through an established process that is a simpler version of the formal proposal process. However, new GE (and existing GE) courses seem to require a greater, deeper review.

EPC reviewed the draft, recommended changes, and asked that it be brought back to EPC for a second review.

Old Business Item #1 - Procedure for Off-Campus Proctored Exams - S. Wilson - Second Reading

Steve Wilson reported that this had been a procedure developed for their internal use in Athletics for their student athletes. L. Morimoto of Athletics had approached the Executive Committee regarding the need for a policy for their student athletes. ExComm charged EPC with reviewing the procedure/policy.

Discussion followed and EPC could not reach consensus. Chair Gilinsky said he and Winter will take the procedure back to ExComm for their recommendation on how best to proceed.

New Business #2 - Revisions to the Spanish MA Program - J. Reeder - First Reading

Jeffrey Reeder said this was presented last year and had a first reading, but not a second. So, they are bringing it forward for another first reading.

The revision will increase the course courses from three to four and reduce the number of elective units proportionately. This will attract transfer students who can maximize the nine units of transfer coursework allowed by the major.

The revision was done on an experimental basis over the last two summers and received positive feedback from students who appreciated the additional time spent together and with the topics.

There would be no change in costs, no change in units, and result in higher pay for faculty teaching the courses.

Waiving the first reading was moved and approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the revision to the Spanish MA Program was approved unanimously.

Information Item - Visit and Conversation With Academic Senate Chair, Margie Purser, to Discuss Curricular Priorities

Margie Purser said she has been making the rounds of all the Senate's committees to introduce herself and converse with faculty.

Newman said the Provost was encouraging more certificate program proposals and decreasing major and minors. What is Purser's take on that?

Purser believes is in response to the current budget woes. It appears that it is more like throwing ideas at the wall and seeing what sticks. Without any accompanying deep thought or reflection. Certificates typically cater to post-graduate specialties. Students gain deeper knowledge in specialties and are attractive to employers.

Sundberg would like to see some sort of guidelines on the development process and creation of a certificate program. This should take place before a certificate is even proposed. And Extended Education can do an assessment of viability.

Discussion then turned to the proposal to eliminate the nine units of upper division general education requirement. A handout forwarded by Catherine

Nelson was shared. There is a “rider” on the elimination proposal that includes bringing all degrees down to 120 units.

Sundberg reported that at the national level there is a rebuttal to the elimination proposal from the AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) in Washington, DC. The association is a “heavy hitter” in national higher education and promotes the liberal arts and sciences. The association noted that the CSU has become the model that several other states have adopted especially because of the value placed on upper division GE.

Apparently, getting rid of the UDGE requirement is something Chancellor Reed has wanted to do for a long time.

This proposal completely blindsided everyone. There was no consultation with faculty who are responsible for the curriculum.

The proposal will make substantive changes to Title V.

How can EPC help? EPC can draft a statement comparable to ones that have come out from other CSU campuses.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lillian Lee