

## Educational Policies Committee

Minutes  
05/22/2008

Members Present: T. Stearns, S. Bittner, S. Cabaniss, C. Elster, L. Morrow, K. Ely, E. Bower, C. Works, D. Freidel

Liaisons Present: C. Blackshire-Belay

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. The Agenda was approved after SC asked about the status of the Academic Calendar and TS said the guidelines had been approved by the Senate.
3. The minutes were approved with one minor change to correct the date to May 8.

### BUSINESS ITEMS:

3. Program Review: ENSP. Tom Jacobsen was present for the ENSP Department. TS clarified the EPC procedure. TJ asked which questions raised by the EPC reviewers were most important. KE stated that the three key issues were 1. coherence of program, 2. the advising aspect, and 3. making sure that the EPC letter captures the Department's resource needs. TJ said that the program really had six majors and the emphasis was on maintaining a strong liberal arts program while preparing students for professional work. They hope to take better advantage of the interrelationship between the six areas. In terms of resources, the "water position" was very important because that program cannot continue without a faculty replacement. He said that the department was not in total agreement with some of the external reviewer's opinions, but they were revisiting the question of modifying the core curriculum to add two courses which most major already take. TS said that EPC would send a letter to the Provost with a copy to ENSP.

TS: Recommended that the outstanding Program Review letters be sent to the committee via email, and they would only be placed on next Fall's agenda if there was an objection. Otherwise, the letters would go to the Provost now.

1. Program Review: English. Kim Hester-Williams was present for the English Department. TS clarified the EPC procedure. KH-W had three corrections to the letter from the EPC reviewers: the chair is Gretta Vollmer; the Bay Area Writing Project sponsors the Summer Invitational Institute; and they did not have a shortage of faculty, but a shortage of faculty to teach upper division courses because of the pressure from lower division courses. She also reported that the single subject program was now waiting for approval from CTC and that the department needed more support from the administration. For example, a three-year grant to support the Summer Institute was cancelled after just the first year due to lack of funds and support. KH-W also wanted to clarify that SSU was the only CSU campus without a Composition Coordinator. Although the department

chair technically has that position, she is not compensated for it. KH-W clarified in response to questions that FYE was found to be insufficient to provide the writing instruction necessary for English 101 and that the English Department collaborated with the University Writing Center, but they were completely separate. She also clarified that an issue raised by CTC for accreditation of the credential program was the lack of technology and diversity in the curriculum. There is not enough institutional support to train teachers in such things as using technology in their future classrooms. SB pointed out that continuation of the Summer Institute would help with diversity. The Department believes that if they had a Composition Coordinator then the faculty could do more with their overall program for all of their students. At this time the faculty are not able to work adequately with English majors, which leads to a decrease in the number of majors and thus a decrease in the numbers of students to become English teachers. TS said that EPC would send a letter to the Provost with a copy to the English Department.

#### REPORTS:

4. Chair of EPC: TS reported that in response to EPC's request for a report on technology, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth will come to a meeting next fall, perhaps with Bruce Carpe and Sam Scalise. TS thanked the committee for its hard work throughout the year and the committee also thanked him as chair.

5. Vice Provost, Academic Programs: CB-B reported that there was now a process in place for department name changes at SSU since there was no procedure in the CSU. She also reported that EMT/FYE and University courses were now under the supervision of Academic Affairs as a tentative solution until a proposal is forthcoming from discussions regarding TS's and Art Warmoth's document regarding University courses. She mentioned that one proposal was to have a faculty member as a "director of undergraduate studies" to oversee FYE, EMT, and in the long-run all GE courses. Any proposal will require input from the faculty.

6. Liaison to APC Report: TS reported that the APC's Ad-hoc Subcommittee on the University Proposal included Nathan Rank as well as himself. Next fall the subcommittee's recommendation will go to APC and then to EPC, FSAC and other venues before going to the Academic Senate. He stressed that this is urgent since something needs to be set up as soon as possible. CB-B clarified that at this time the FYE Coordinator, John Kornfeld, remains and the EMT structure is intact with Elisa Velasquez, Wanda Boda and Julie Greathouse coordinating. TS also report that the Provost, Deans and APC met together once and would have a retreat mid-June to plan processes and coordination with APC and WASC.

7. Graduate Studies Subcommittee Report: CE reported that at the last meeting the graduate course repeat policy was approved. There will be a retreat next Fall.

8. General Education Subcommittee: CW reported that all GE learning objectives were now available on the GE blog and the Subcommittee was undertaking a program review of GE. Nathan Rank is continuing as chair. They have looked at the APC proposal.

9. Senate Budget Committee: KE reported the committee is trying to develop a “dash board” of statistics to reflect what happens to programs in light of budget cuts. The idea is to respond to budget cuts.

10. University Council on Educator Preparation (UCEP): SB reported that the group did not meet.

11. University Standards Subcommittee: SC reported that there will be a proposal to change the charge to the committee regarding GE substitutions coming forward next fall.

#### BUSINESS ITEMS:

5. Proposed Experimental Course: UNIV 301. TS reported that he had invited Wanda Boda to attend but she was not able to because of finals and the short notice. He explained that the proposal comes to EPC because there is no department which oversees University courses. There was discussion that there was not justification for the proposal to have an upper division section of EMT for transfer students. CB-B explained that there was a problem having transfer students with freshmen in the same EMT because their needs were different. She did not know why they only needed two units instead of the usual three. CW suggested they have a special EMT section for transfer students. TS said that “First Year” can include such students. There was also discussion of advisability of giving upper division credit for this course. Most agreed EPC needed more information before approval. CS moved that EPC not approve the course. KB seconded the motion. Discussion: DF suggested EPC provide a rational for not approving the course. The motion was approved unanimously, and TS will provide the rational.

2. Program Review: Psychology. Laurel McCabe was present for the Psychology Department. TS clarified the EPC procedure. LM explained that there were three key issues: increased department size with diminished resources, a split between the department’s humanist foundations and a more contemporary approach to psychology, and the need for research laboratory space. The department has applied for impaction for fall, 2009, and will probably get it. The graduate programs were not part of the program review. The external reviewer made suggestions for curriculum revisions but the department does not have the faculty to do it, such as teaching a research

methods class. Two searches were cancelled in January, 2008. Several have been canceled over the last couple of years. LS explained that the external reviewer thought the curriculum should more closely revolved around the twelve goals of the APA. Although the department only has six of these goals, many of the others, such as critical thinking, are addressed with GE courses. The external reviewer also said they did not have enough research-related courses. However graduates have a good track record getting jobs and being accepted into graduate programs. TS said that EPC would send a letter to the Provost with a copy to the Psychology Department.

6. EMT Program Review Charge: TS reported that he and SC had drafted the charge because APC had requested it. The most recent interim Program Review was in 2001. KE questioned whether the May 1 deadline was realistic. She also suggested the language be changed to "Adequate resources for conducting the review should be requested from the Provost." KB said they would probably be able to do the review after fall classes. KE moved to request the program review as outlined in the letter with the change of wording to "Provost". LM seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA): TS explained that the draft was from Elaine Sundberg, Nathan Rank and himself along the lines suggested by Tim Wandling at the last EPC meeting. He also reported that the VSA resolution, which EPC had sent to the Academic Senate, had been referred back to EPC in light of the CSU Academic Senate resolution calling for a two-year pilot study. There was a discussion of the lack of student interest in taking the CLA. KE moved to fill in the box with the draft paragraph and the "CLICK HERE" statement. DF seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by S. Cabaniss.