

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes
November 11, 2004

Members Present: Elaine McDonald, Chair, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Mary Halavais, Perry Marker, Lynne Morrow, Vincent Richman, Elaine Sundberg, Rick Robison, Greta Vollmer, Art Warmoth, Kristy McGuinness (proxy for Ben Pugno)

Guests: Dean Bill Babula, Arts and Humanities

Meeting was called to order by Elaine McDonald, who gave a brief Chair's report, which the minutes taker missed – arrived late.

Elaine Sundberg reported on two upcoming conferences that faculty may be interesting in attending, one a teleconference on the freshman year experience on Dec. 2; the other, the AAC&U National Meeting to be held in San Francisco in late January 2005. The Provost's Office will support sending up to 20 faculty to that meeting.

Special Report: Dean Bill Babula, Arts and Humanities, discussed the rationale of Arts and Humanities moving to a 4-unit model (in most departments, with the exception of Art Studio, Music, Theatre Arts, and Hutchins) and the impact of that move on general education courses in Area A and Area C. He presented a “transition” model that Arts and Humanities is proposing until such time as the new GE path is implemented. The plan would call for reduction of one unit in Area A (from 9 to 8) and reducing the number of groups in Area C (from 4 to 3). The oral and written communication requirement would be spread out over three courses -- English 101 and Critical Thinking – adding one unit each – and the other unit being absorbed in Area C. Bill indicated that he had discussed this with Kathryn Crabbe who confirmed that this would not be a problem in conforming to the intent of Executive Order 595 regarding General Education.

Discussion:

Lynne Morrow: clarified that there would be changes in the curriculum in these areas in order to accomplish the goals. Dean Babula confirmed that those changes would occur. Greta Vollmer: asked if the Dean had met yet with the GE committee and Dean Babula indicated that he had not. He was coming to EPC at Elaine McDonald's invitation to discuss the four unit model in light of AMCS coming forward to EPC with changes in the major resulting in a 4-unit model for major and GE courses. Dean Babula said he would be happy to go to GE although they are currently occupied with the FYE work and have placed a temporary moratorium on changes in the current GE pattern.

Bob Coleman-Senghor: While there remain fundamental questions about GE, this move to a 4-unit model meets the needs of most of the departments in A&H and, indeed, other schools as well. For example, departments in the social sciences that have their major courses at 4 units; GE courses remain at 3.

Art Warmoth: Commented that this is a very helpful, informational proposal. Are English 101 and Critical Thinking currently taken in a particular sequence? According to the Dean, no. In order to balance fall and spring enrollment in these two courses and in order

to provide lecturers with year long appointments, students are placed into either English or Critical Thinking in the fall based on their EPT scores.

Greta Vollmer: Are the remedial courses in English also going to 4 units? The Dean indicated that they were excluded from this proposal and would remain at 3 units.

Elaine McDonald: Pointed out that a unit would be lost in Area A and some distribution would be lost in Area C. How would this affect A&H funding, etc? Dean Babula thought the effect would ultimately be negligible and that the distribution would remain but over three rather than four areas.

Greta Vollmer: Some flexibility is lost in scheduling 4-unit modules as opposed to 3.

Perry Marker: What are we saying to Dean Babula? Are we endorsing this or not?

Dean Babula: Next steps: He will be meeting with Paul Draper next week to discuss bringing this interim proposal forward. Elaine McDonald offered to attend the meeting as well to bring forward EPC's perspective and to urge GE to take up considering this proposal despite their current moratorium on GE changes. The committee encouraged the Dean to continue working on this proposal.

Business:

1. Course Outline Policy – 2nd Reading:

Elaine McDonald reminded the committee of the context of the 1st reading on this policy. The Course Outline Policy was developed by FSAC and then forwarded to the Senate. The Senate referred the policy back to EPC for review, amendment, and forwarding back to the Executive Committee. The 1st reading focused particularly on points 3 (GE Objectives) and 7 (which University policies ought to be placed on the syllabus). Paul Draper, GE Subcommittee Chair, introduced at the 1st reading a resolution passed by GE subcommittee to substitute wording for #3.

Lynne Morrow: Commented that a policy that introduces some uniformity and expectation to a course syllabus would be helpful to newer faculty. She would have liked such a template.

Elaine Sundberg: Mentioned that on some campuses their CTPD offers workshops on syllabus development.

Elaine McDonald: Commented that the concern of members of the Senate regarding #7 was that it transferred what is the student's responsibility to be informed about university policies to the individual faculty.

Rick Robison: Don't we address this policies at orientations for students?

Bob Coleman-Senghor: The syllabus should deal with matter that affect academic performance, not turn into a list of policies that have no impact on the classroom.

Perry Marker: Questioned why we are doing this? It seems to be an example of the Senate micro-managing issues. It should be back in FSAC.

Elaine Sundberg: Asked what is the procedure? Will we be making recommendations that will go back to FSAC, the originator of this policy? Of the policies that ought perhaps to be included, it seems that the disabilities policy and cheating/plagiarism are the ones that have the most direct link to the classroom/academic issues. The others are more peripheral and could be referenced via a single url. Are there legal implications?

Elaine McDonald: This has been assigned by the Senate and Executive Committee to EPC; it will go directly back to the Executive Committee, not to FSAC.

Mary Halavais: Would not support a policy that requires a syllabus. It should be recommendation only.

Elaine McDonald: Suggested we extend the 2nd reading to our next meeting. She will prepare a list of recommendations on how to revise #3 and #7 and we will discuss and vote on it at the next meeting.

Perry Marker moved/Lynne Morrow seconded: Table the Course Outline Policy until the next meet. Passed unanimously.

2. RTP Policy:

Perry Marker questioned why it was coming to EPC. RTP policy issues are under the purview of FSAC. Bob Coleman-Senghor felt the RTP policy does affect curricular issues. Elaine McDonald asked that we read it carefully and be prepared to discuss it at our next meeting.

3. Preparing Docs for the Senate – draft.

A brief discussion on this. Elaine McDonald explained that the Executive Committee often receives documents lacking rationales or information that is necessary for the item to be moved forward to the Senate. Elaine McDonald urged individuals to email Laurel Holmstrom directly with revisions or recommendations.

Meeting Adjourned 1:00 pm

Minutes taken by: Elaine Sundberg