

EPC MINUTES
February 21, 2008
11-1 p.m. STV 1041
D. Freidel, scribe

Present:
Thaine Stearns, Chair
Steve Bittner
Sharon Cabaniss
Charles Elster
Lynne Morrow
Kirsten Ely
Karen Brodsky
Carmen Works
Trina Svoboda for Whitney
Elaine Sundberg for Carol
Absent: Lillian Lee

Call to Order 11 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes, Dec. 12 and Feb. 7

CW: Re FYE, is Philosophy committed to holding teaching critical thinking workshops for FYE faculty for the duration of course? JK: Yes. Added to 2/7 minutes. Minutes for both dates approved, 2/7 with changes.

Chair Reports

1. Schedule for bringing program reviews forward to EPC, six now ready for review. Art Studio and Art History will be heard together on March 6th; Business & Economics: March 20; CCJA and History heard April 10th. Brief letters should be submitted from two-member committees to EPC for first readings. Information is available from Elaine Sundberg. Guidelines with curriculum guide and project review guidelines are available on the Senate website under documents. Review documents are sent from Elaine Sundberg to each committee member.

2. New Dean of Extended Ed, Dr. Mark Merickel, re :
 - (a) Singapore Global Studies program, he has serious concerns. TS proposes informal meeting with stakeholders, since EPC has already approved the program.
 - (b) Extra summer session has been scheduled for August. Should EPC consider weighing in on this?
 - (c) EPC needs to address academic calendar; this will be on the agenda for 3/6 meeting.
 - (d) Ext. Ed Dean presented a plan for Distributed Learning, on-line courses delivered by SSU. All of these issues have curricular implications for EPC consideration. SC: She has looked at guidelines for Extended Ed objectives. Proposes that Dean come to discuss these items with EPC. Voice vote: committee agrees. It will be set up on agenda for a future meeting.

Vice Provost Report: Elaine Sundberg for Carol Blackshire-Belay

The Vice Provost is anxious for EPC to move forward with the academic calendar. There's a new wrinkle, proposed by Human Services, to move the holiday taken for President's Day into the Fall Semester, into Christmas Break, because Veteran's Day has been added to the calendar. This will allow employees to have an actual holiday instead of requiring that they take a day without pay or as one of their vacation days during the Christmas break. This change would mean that there would be 73 days in Fall Semester and 74 days in Spring. Be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.
(handout – proposed calendar)

Liaison to Academic Planning Committee Report:

TS: APC is working on recommendation for University 150. (EPC recommendation is going to the Senate today.) APC is discussing the feasibility of an additional academic unit, and also concerns regarding SFR.

SC: Why are two committees needed to approve this course?

TS: The assessment part was sent back to APC, when it was approved two years ago. Not sure if APC approval is required for Senate consideration. APC will probably bring their recommendation re University 150, not approval.

KE: There seems to be some confusion about the scale-up for the class, which may be the concern for APC, but I'm not clear about the role of APC here.

Business Items

1. Robert Eyler, Economics: Revision to Existing Program.

Reasons for revision to existing program: need to change elements of existing concentrations and add a new concentration, "Labor and Public Economics". These changes reflect current faculty strengths and update concentrations to reflect progression of economic sciences. Econ 319 Managerial Economics will be replaced with Econ 318, Industrial Organization, which is more up to date, uses more advanced stats. We're dropping Econ 388, Business Law, due to retirements and overlap with Business. It's not practical to offer two such courses in the School. Concentration courses are all upper division; we've also added a 400 level course, Seminar in Game Theory.

LM: No requirement for "legal" course as regulation is taught in Econ 318 and 418.

KE: Econ 418 Game Theory is more useful than law course. It fits well with personnel.

TS: Grandfather was in Business Law, but recommended that students to take four Econ courses instead of Business.

RE: International Econ concentration rationale: relieves students need to take Business; students can take upper division Econ courses instead. It allows faculty to teach more classes, reach more students, increase class sizes.

RE: Labor and Public Economics rationale: we deleted Quantitative Methods, which was not offered regularly. The proposed concentration courses are offered every semester, so students can finish in four semesters. This also reflects personnel expertise.

SE: Lack of resources is a common issue; is this concentration broadening the scope of Econ offerings?

RE: Yes, it augments the ability of the faculty to offer breadth in the major.

SC: Are you dropping Econ 388 (Econ of Law)?

RE: No. All of these changes have been approved by the Business Curriculum Committee. Econ 388 is still on the books. Business 225 and Econ 385 are similarly taught.

TS: What about effects of dropping the Quantitative concentration? And dropping Global Studies options?

RE: No explicit course in math has been dropped; before we forced calculus. Now we're requiring Math 365, so it's a trade in math courses. Historically only 3-4 students were taking that concentration. Econometrics could end up with more courses outside Econ. If students want to they can do this concentration unofficially within the General Study plan, as 1 Econ and 3 Math courses. Econ Math courses aren't mounted on a regular basis.

CW: Usually in a case like this we receive letters from other departments that are affected by the changes, in this case Math and Global Studies.

TS: Yes, Please have letters or emails from affected departments sent to Thaine.

SE: Move to waive first reading on Econ proposals: seconded, passed unanimously.

TS: Move to extend this topic for five more minutes: passed

TS: We're now in second reading for Econ proposal.

SC: Two econometrics courses are still offered?

RE: Yes. The department is worried about the computational literacy of their students. We're now integrating basic computing into other course, which fits with both students going to graduate school and those who aren't.

KE: Move to recommend this proposal to the Senate, contingent on letters of support from Math, Business, and Global Studies. Seconded, Unanimously approved. Placed on Senate consent calendar.

2. Will Johnson, Music. Second Reading, Revision to existing program.

SC: How will the changes in the Music courses affect GE?

WJ: Original course is part GE, part majors class. We changed this class into two classes, one new one, GE for non-majors. The second class, Fundamentals of Music, might be only for majors if there are insufficient faculty to teach two classes. There will be at least one GE class in Music offered every semester.

CW: you don't yet have your Dean's signature on this proposal?

WJ: there should be no problem with signatures. We haven't gotten the signature yet but anticipate that we will.

SC: With the freeze on hiring, is the new program contingent on hiring new faculty? Or will you compensate faculty with increased WTUs for increased class size?

WJ: We're moving out of the largest GE courses. We should offer at least one GE each semester, either lower division or upper division. The difficulty is that the Fundamentals for Nonmajors could become majors only, but non-majors could take it anyway, just not for GE.

KE: move to approve Music's proposal. KB seconded, contingent on Dean's signature. Approved unanimously and placed on the Senate consent calendar.

3. Revision to Master Catalog Course Change form. Proposed one form instead of two for course approval, for new courses, changes to courses. Last semester the committee

asked for recommendations re the Master Catalog Course form and signature sheet for proposals. It was proposed that (a) a signature be added for EPC Chair; (b) the signature line for Dean of Academic Affairs be eliminated (position no longer exists). However, Academic Affairs still needs to see proposals – that's how changes reach the catalog.

KE: move to approve: only one page form for Master Catalog Copy Change; seconded SB.

CW: Amend motion to add that there be a signature line for Chair of EPC; seconded LM.

Discussion: SB: Will Chair go through all the forms without bringing them to EPC?

TS: Yes, based on what ES is already doing. Chair will decide which changes need to be seen by EPC.

ES: Any proposal she signs is available for consideration by the full EPC committee.

There is a 15day review period during which proposals can be requested. She tells Departments if proposals need to be considered by EPC Committee.

SC: How does motion on the table affect what goes to EPC or not, based on forms?

TS: It would change EPC curriculum guide.

KB: It's good to have another pair of eyes.

Motion tabled and amended for now.

4. Michaela Grobbel, Modern Languages and Literature.

Proposed revision of curriculum for German Minor.

MG: We proposed to change the curriculum to merge history and culture with language skills in all classes, where current curriculum offers these separately. This is a new approach in modern languages academics. This new approach is important to increase enrollment in classes. With the old model, courses were required to be taken in sequence, which is difficult for students' schedules. With the proposed new curriculum, German 101 is still a prerequisite, then German 102, both semesters. After the second semester there is more flexibility. The German 200 class studies regions and cities, e.g. German 202 is about Berlin this spring semester. There is one new course, German 314, passed by the GE Subcommittee, a modified FL 314, German Cities and Culture taught in English on alternate topics. This can be for minors too. Minors are required to take 1 unit language lab to enhance their language skills. German 300, the last class, is preparation for the German Proficiency test for all minors. This exam strengthens the minor; other schools test only after a major has finished their coursework. Also, this class can be taken more than once, since topics change each semester.

SC: can a student repeat the test? They won't get the minor if they fail? MG: Yes.

TS: Second reading next meeting.

5. Nathan Rank, Chair of GE Committee.

Report of GE Subcommittee. GE assessment plan – reporting to the Senate today.

How to take on assessment? How is GE assessment being organized, operating? Area B is being studied now. Workshops have been set up bringing together faculty from each discipline who teach GE courses in this area, to develop learning objectives for each GE area and sub-area. Then these learning objectives will be used to evaluate courses taught in that area. There are two stages to this process, with three to five learning objectives at each stage to be refined. When complete, elected representatives from each subarea will meet to develop objectives for the larger Area. These learning objectives will be needed

for the evaluation of new course proposals for GE. Plans are to cover Areas B, D, and E by the end of Spring 08, and Areas A and C in the fall. See Appendix handout that shows a distillation of data GE Committee now has.

SB: Do all departments know about this assessment of GE learning objectives?

NR: yes. All departments have been notified and invited to send representatives to the workshops. They're also open to other participants, for example if they have an interest in participating in an Area that is now not open to them.

ES: This process suggests that GE is not unchangeable. It helps us understand what the GE program actually does, helps define what GE might do, and what changes could be made. It will be interesting to see how objectives move across categories, and how GE could shift. The Provost is supporting this process, providing funding for lunches.

SC: This is also an integral part of program review, providing some feedback to departments in their program reviews.

Meeting adjourned, 1 p.m.