

**Educational Policies Committee**  
**December 10, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Emily Asencio (EA), Mike Ezra (ME), Kathryn Chang (KC), Kristen Daley (KD) Sheri Schonleber (SS), Matty Mookerjee (MMo), Katilin Springmier (KS), Melinda Milligan (MM), Mary Ellen Wilkosz (MEW), Luisa Grossi (LG), Joseph Lofton (JoL),

Katie Musick (KMu), Stacey Bosick (SB), Jenn Lillig (JL), Damien Hensen, Kari Manwiller (KM)

**Absent:** none

**Meeting called to order** by EA (10:00am)

**Agenda:** approved. Added discussion of French 314 WIC status.

**Minutes:** 11/19/2020, approved. From SB, an edit to the minutes that clarifies language about A1 and their relation to FLCs.

**Reports:**

Chair of EPC, Emily Asencio:

- GE.sonom.edu webpage has been updated/teach out section updated
- AB1460 page has a lot of info
- had a meeting with senate members about the online policy; they are encouraging EPC to have a policy ready for scheduling for Fall, 2021. EPC will work on this at the very beginning of the Spring semester.

AVP, Academic Programs, S. Bosick:

- We are short some GE courses for Spring, but we got some additional funding because we have additional enrollment from transfer students (over 440 students, of those are first year students).
- Memo from Chancellor's office that the expectation to be in-person in the Fall, 2021
- Ethnic Studies controversy continues to rage on

Liaison to Graduate Studies Subcommittee, M. Wilkosz: nothing to report (there is an outstanding question about an MA in Spanish).

Liaison from Senate Diversity Subcommittee, K. Daley: met last week

- worked on a statement to put on the website
- working with faculty, one-on-one, to help put some anti-racist/inclusivity statements into their syllabi
- working on a template syllabus
- working on funding issue to potentially have a fellow in each school

Liaison to the Overlays Committee, Melinda Milligan:

- done formulating the WIC criteria, and will come to EPC
- Done with the two government overlays, but not quite as far along as the WIC overlay
- Started with the sustainability overlays; different process
- Racial Justice overlay is backburnered until certain things are resolved. They will want to have a conversation about this once things are a bit clearer.

**Consent Items: None**

**Old Business Items: None**

**New Business:**

Discussion: GE Memo regarding temporary tags

- MM would this be a universal process? Do they have to signal this beforehand?
- JL – it's OK with GE that EPC make these temporary decision, but they still want the course to come through GE for the permanent tag.

**(TC 10:30) SYE Content Area Criteria (Carmen Works)**

- like a School Committee in that it is outside the governance hierarchy
- wants advice/feedback about the transition (second-year) curriculum
- e.g., the makerspace course (3 unit GE course in area B), “odd class out”
- childhood development is putting one together
- transition curriculum to help with retention
- e.g., “How to think like a Social Scientist” fits within the 3 units
- SB some workshoping that was done about this last year and how the second year is important in retention. Jolly was very involved in this. Transitional learning outcomes should build on those experienced in the first year. More than just how to adjust to college, so that it is scaffolded on top of the first year experience.
- MM is this linked with assessment?
- CW our assessment would be based on the learning outcomes
- KD would the transitional unit be taught by the professor?
- CW it's already imbedded in the 3 units, for the most part, but there may be some variation between the programs.
- MM- the University Studies Subcommittee is not in the governance hierarchy, so it's a little weird, but it makes sense to use them as a group of experts that can advise on this issue and present EPC with recommendations and pros and cons.
- SB – should come from USS as an information item, and doesn't need to be a full blown proposal.
- MM the committee wants our “go-ahead” to say continue with your work on this issue.
- SB – the committee is currently in the routing process for FLC.
- MM – propose that EPC communicate to the University Studies Curriculum Committee that we encourage them to develop SYE curriculum outcomes concerning transitional

curriculum and bring that to EPC when they are ready. **Seconded and approved unanimously.**

- CW – is there a way to better facilitate interdisciplinary courses and cross-listing courses
- SB – There is an increase “attention” to interdisciplinary efforts on campus. A long history of not doing this well (a lot of barriers). Carmen is looking into reducing some of these barriers. What comes up for you all?
- CW – PeopleSoft is problematic. WTU/FAD/workload is an issue. Also, SETEs.
- EA – We are past our TC, so we need to conclude this conversation. Can we have CW comeback next semester.

**(TC 11:00)** Environmental Science, Geography, and Management BS and Environmental Studies, Geography, and Planning BA 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, (Michelle Gorman)

- The focus will be declared with a change of major form, officially (worked with Katie on). It is good for book keeping. It will not show up on their transcript.
- MM new online form means that the students can do this on their own, without an advisor.
- MG the new online form does not impact this.
- MG the revisions have not effect on their minor
- MM are we voting on these as a package? We could do the BA, the BS, and lump the associated discontinuances (5 and 1) along with the program vote.
- MMo moves that we approve the BS and its 1 associated discontinuance. **Seconded and approved unanimously.**
- KD moves that we approve the BA and its 5 associated discontinuances. **Seconded and approved unanimously.**

Discontinuances include:

Discontinuance Energy Management and Design Concentration

Discontinuance Environmental Systems Concentration

Discontinuance Geospatial Analysis and Technology Concentration

Discontinuance Planning for Sustainable Communities Concentration

Discontinuance Society, Environment and Development Concentration

Discontinuance Sustainable Communities Concentration

### **Discussion item: Issue with overlays and the potential for bottlenecking:**

- SB the major issue is that as the overlays are being rolled out, there is increasing concern that instead of being true overlays, they are actually additional requirements. One suggestion is that EPC find other ways to streamline the overlays. The concern is that the process is becoming extremely complicated for students and faculty to navigate. The concern is that it will create additional requirements and bottlenecks and hinder graduation.
- JL – not actually making it more flexible for students, but the opposite.
- MM – one of the purposes was to create a unique SSU experience. Are we diluting or detracting from the impact of the overlays? The bottlenecks need to be addressed with data. To change the learning outcomes such that they overlap with GE learning outcomes is a drastic revision of the vision of this program. There is no funding for overlays. Before we talk about bottlenecks, we need a definition and criterion. Needs to be a more data-driven conversation.
- SB – the roadblocks tend to disadvantage underprivileged students.
- EA – Jeff Reader is not able to join us for this conversation

### **Discussion item: French 314:**

- EA it used to be a WIC course for a number of years. Can they “get back” their WIC status? They tried to mount it as a 60-person class but it didn’t fill, and they only got 16 students, so they want to make it WIC again (and potentially fill up to 25).
- MM does this change the workload for those 16 students who enrolled not thinking this was going to be a WIC course? It is an upper division C course and a major’s course. Would the student taking it to get UD C have signed up for the course if they had known that it was a writing intensive course. Again, additional workload is the issue.
- JL – seconds this concern.
- EA if the alternative is that the course gets canceled, then that would affect the students as well.
- KM – it does say in the description that it could be a WIC course
- MMo – would not to vote for this because it feels unfair for the student who already enrolled in the course
- KS – seconded that concern.
- SS – Could it be both and have additional requirements for those students who are taking it as a WIC?
- SB – this would be difficult logically
- KM – Worried that some of the students might already think they are a WIC course
- KS – uncomfortable making this decision for the students without conferring with them.
- KD – perhaps an anonymous survey would be less pressuring of the students
- SB – don’t think the students will respond over break
- From SB: Dennis says: They have an attribute on them which shows up in the searchable schedule. Also, Loriann Negri posts a list of them online. But if a student is not looking for it they could potentially end up in a WIC and not know it."
- KS – moves that we do not add the WIC tag.

-MMo suggest that we don't need to make this motion (but if we do, then I would second it).

**(TC 11:45) Curriculog Forms final comments (Kari Manwiller)**

- MM will email comments to Kari and to the whole committee because there are some open questions for the committee.
- MM is there a need for an overlay revision form going forward? Also a series of questions about the discontinuances form. Routing order on courses that need multiple things (e.g., GE, overlay, etc.).
- KM has also wondered whether there needed to be a separate overlay form. There is a question on the current forms that triggers the overlay response. The course content criteria will be handled the same way as the GE courses.
- MM needs to get routed to the overlay committee.
- KM the triggering check box puts the overlay committee into the routing step. Which order should it go in terms of GE vs. overlay.

**Information Item:**

Academic Planning Memo/List regarding sunsetting courses from JL. This is part of the whole GE reform process. Courses that decided to not to go through the GE revision process.

**Meeting adjourns 12:05 pm**

Submitted by: Matty Mookerjee