

Educational Policy Committee
Thursday, March 4, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Emily Asencio (EA), Mike Ezra (ME), Kathryn Chang (KC), Sheri Schonleber (SS), Kristen Daley (KD), Matty Mookerjee (MMo), Kaitlin Springmier (KS), Mary Ellen Wilkosz (MEW), Michelle Jolly (MJ, proxy for Melinda Milligan), Joseph Lofton (JL), Luisa Grossi (LG), Stacey Bosick (SB), Jenn Lillig (JL), Katie Musick (KMu), Damien J Hansen (DH)

Absent: Melinda Milligan

Meeting Called to Order by EA at 10:02am

Approval of Agenda: Approved (Emily added one discussion item to the agenda, discussing return to campus and how protocols are going to be laid out for faculty and students, we have a full agenda, but she would like to add it.)

Approval of Minutes: Not approved, missing minutes (minutes from 2.18.21 are not yet available yet)

Consent Items: Anth 201, Arth160A, Arth160B, Chem 300, Gep201B, Libs125, Nurs412, Phil160A, Phil 160B, Phil377 (See Curriculog) Automatically approved unless pulled, nothing was pulled. Approved with the approval of agenda

Reports:

Stacey Bosick's Report

Academic Faculty Fellows: Put together a call, sent forward, and we received lots of great applications. Continue to advertise those widely.

Academic Faculty Exchange: lots of exciting ones coming soon, we will be sending those announcements out soon.

WASC visiting today.

Discussion Items:

Address WIC for Fall

EA: For WIC we are in between the old and new process, I wanted to get EPC's thoughts on new courses for WIC in the fall.

ME: Stacey, do you think the CSU will be getting rid of GWAR forever?

SB: GWAR is temporarily suspended through the next year, through fall, issues with WEPT,

taking the opportunity to not bring WEPT back, not an equitable way to assess writing. At a tough moment, we need to grow our WIC courses. Hard to mount, particularly at this time, work load, hybrid, online, etc. My hunch is that GWAR will not come back.

MJ: Seems to be an odd moment, an important moment for us to lay claim to our liberal arts identity, upper division writing courses required, whether there is a GWAR or not, part of who we are at SSU.

SS: Grading freshmen papers now, how can we get tutorial help for first years?

SB: Will check in with LARC, we are working in GIG, how to better use exams, knowledge students are bringing in, test through Spanish and lived experience, tutoring in English that might better suit their trajectories.

SS: It is a consistent need.

EA: Understand we won't be introducing any new WIC courses for the Fall, and Stacey can get the list of WIC courses for fall for EPC to see and approve.

SB: On its way. WIC courses for Fall and 2 courses for summer, see google doc

EA: Stacey, when is the deadline for this?

SB Fine to wait until next meeting, maybe look at list, check with schools and report back

EA: Send list to our curriculum committees, courses had to be pre-approved, no new courses. Other questions for Stacey?

Delivery Mode Requests

EA: Delivery mode requests, f2f to online format, we did extend the temporary tags, last time we assessed this we asked departments to come to EPC and we asked for their online policy, should this mode change requests be consent items or first readings? Temporary tags will last until summer 2022. We need to get those through, so we should decide how we want that protocol to go.

EPC decided to schedule as first readings to see what departments are thinking.

New Business Items:

TC: 10:15 THAR 304, THAR 347, THAR 231, THAR 303, THAR 344, THAR 42, THAR 480, THAR Concentration in Acting, BA, THAR Concentration in Technical Theatre, BA, THAR Concentration in Theatre Studies, BA 1st reading (see Curriculog) Scott Horstein (SH) and Tony Bish (TB)

EA: Bunch of stuff for first readings, give brief overview, Scott and Tony

SH: Two simultaneous revisions, desire to have our department be both accredited through

NAST and then work to be in compliance with EO 1071 (50% percent of curriculum need to go across all concentrations). We are not offering any new courses, these are courses we teach already, the programs did have hidden units, coming clean on that, working to have a really transparent program. Two biggest pieces as far as curriculum, THAR 160 is now required for the major, moved it into the major. NAST requires majors take a certain amount of units for production work, and that was not previously required and also had variable units. NAST asks that we standardize that, requiring at least 6 units of performance, 2 shows worth of units during their time at SSU. Significant change, open to all, now we must add an audition for the Acting Program into the major.

TB: It's been 21 years since we updated the Technical Theater concentration, a new revision, trying to update things. Classes students always take as an elective are now built into the major.

SH: Course titles are more specific and transparent.

EA: Three courses, THAR 231, 303, 480...CSU code is being changed, 78 accruing no workload, so it has been changed, it reads "Dean's" request. I recommend clarifying that.

SH: Probably done in a rush, something both the Dean and the faculty wanted to make happen, so faculty were getting units for the work they were doing.

SB: That did come up in Academic Programs, we also checked that out with Scott and Hollis, all are on board.

EA: Be sure to note that on curriculog, this was a faculty driven decision.

TB: It was Hollis that started the conversation, the reality is faculty wanted this to happen, to understand the workload, ready to update it.

LG: For THAR 160A/B what about transfers, how will that articulate, those 8 units?

SH: We don't have an idea for that, open for thoughts?

MJ: Why is THAR 160 a requirement, because it is GE?

SH: We have a specific section for THAR majors in 160, gives the first year's a community/cohort experience, introduces them to core concepts, builds community, and offers opportunities to connect.

KMu: In addition to transfer students, 160 will also be an issue for students that are second years who declare the major then. Requirement is the GE, A3/C2 we would have to put all of them as options, all the courses wouldn't fulfill the spirit you wanted to achieve.

EA: Any other things we would like to see for a second reading besides clarifying the "note" on the 78 CS code switch as well as clarifying options for THAR 160A/B for transfers and students who declare the major after their first year. Plan on another meeting on 3/18.

TC: 10:35 Spanish MA 2nd Reading, Parissa Tadrissi (PT)

EA: The Spanish MA is back for its second reading, as we were waiting for the correct documents to be posted to curriculog, the correct documents have been updated, so everything should be there

PT: Happy to discuss rationale and answer any questions, as you may recall from my last visit the student body for the MA has changed, students can take electives at other institutions, puts us in alignment with rest of CSU Spanish MA programs

EA: Any other questions, comments, ideas?

MMo: Move that we approve

JL: Seconded

Approved unanimously

TC: 11:00 WIC Criteria 2nd reading, Scott Severson (SSe) (see Google drive 2/4)

EA: Review documents

MJ: Reporting for Melinda Milligan, suggesting edits for the Overlay

EA: Other thoughts?

MMo: What is Scott's opinion of the suggestions made by Melinda?

SSe: We thought they were clarifications, no issues with them, reasonable for the forms to stay in own lane, overlay and GE courses clear, one comment I would make, language like that being pulled out, is that the routing must be made super clear to faculty, a separate process for an Overlay approval. I want to ask that EPC consider how WIC courses get routed, some will be GE courses some will not, how to best handle routing, we think curriculog.

JL: Have you discussed the shared governance CS code, from a workload perspective?

EA: We haven't had that discussion, planning to put aside for the next meeting for us to focus on, definitely an issue that needs to be addressed, we can use CS codes but what impact does administration have to follow them, EPC believes the CS codes are a curriculum faculty issue, administration may not believe that. Is a CS code an effective way of honoring the enrollment cap? I think EPC needs to have a discussion about this.

SB: I have been in conversation with the CSU/Chancellor's office, they believe CS codes should not be written into the curriculum, they believe CS codes to be a workload issue.

MMo: I have major concerns with the Chancellor's Office (CO) thinking in regards to CS codes as strictly workload.

SB: They (CO) have viewed CS codes as a workload issue/lens, not necessarily pedagogy, they

believe it shouldn't be written into classes/courses, impacts faculty freedom, if it needs to be taught in a certain way.

MJ: Interpreting CS codes only as workload, and not in a pedagogical way, worries me, long history and research for writing courses to stay under 25, problematic if faculty feel pressured by the dean or chair or administration, having a tool to bolster that is really important.

EA: How can we ensure a 25 unit cap besides implementing a CS code?

SSo: Remiss not to come back and report how the Overlay Committee has consulted multiple pedagogical resources, 20 enrollment cap is best, you can go to 25. Clearly researched, second Matty's point that CS code is pedagogical, CS codes are about whether the course is taught as a lab, lecture, seminar, activity, purely pedagogical way. WIC scaffolds assignments, completely different at different class sizes. Like to see faculty members support a 25 enrollment cap for WIC.

JL: Can't stop class size creep we know that so how do you address this? Sitting down between faculty and Deans' of the schools to have this conversation seems important.

SS: Reminding me of the conversations about online, quality vs quantity, doesn't answer the questions but feels similar to instances where we are wrestling with teaching strategies and pedagogical approaches online.

KS: Maybe a divergence? Didn't we pass an internship policy with a specific CS code?

SB: CO is taking issue with the Internship policy, and the CS code.

JL: We put CS codes in there so faculty weren't requiring students to be in class as much, hours should be on site instead and not hours spent in the classroom.

KS: Another reason to out then why we believe the CS codes (for CO) are more than just workload.

SB: Great point, WIC I see more similarities regarding how they will be taught across the board. Different ways programs want to run their internships, more intricate and challenging maybe even more than WIC.

TC: 11:20am BM Music John Palmer (JP), Jenn Lillig, (JL) (See Curriculog)

EA: John, can you give us a little background?

JP: For the BA in Composition and Technology, NASM, the accredited body looked over the degree in 2018 and told us it looked like a BM, not a BA. So we are changing the degree to what it should be called, for appropriate course work, 6 units of additional repertory attendance, BA did not have to do, maintaining everything else. 95% of the curriculum/degree has no change at all.

JL: Music BM trying to get this done to be EO 1071 compliant. Has to go to CO to get approval, so it is at school and Dean level now, hoping we can get it moving, for fall approval.

KD: Are the six extra units required resource neutral?

JP: Yes, those classes already exist.

KD: Motion to waive the first reading

KS: Seconded

All approved

KD: Motion to approve BM in Music

KS: Seconded

All approved

Syllabus policy (See Google drive 3/4)

EA: EPC weigh in on the policy. Main thing we were asked to comment on, is the format of the syllabus and making sure it is accessible.

MJ: Wasn't aware that this is a CSU policy.

KD: In full support of posting accessible documents to Canvas to support students' needs.

SS: Faculty Center is there to help faculty if they need help with posting.

MEW: Just because it is on Canvas doesn't really mean it is accessible, you could post a pdf that is not accessible.

EA: Joe, what are your thoughts from the student perspective?

JL: Consistency of keeping everything in one space or one LMS site is best, echo to keep it accessible.

KD: Canvas will tell you if the syllabus is not accessible so you can fix it. The goal is to have an accessible syllabus provided to the students as an equitable way to resource the materials. EPC should support this policy.

Senate Resolution on Administrative Encroachment into Curricular Matters (See Google Drive 3/4)

Matty will be handling this at the Senate today, Emily is in close proximity to the issue and recuses herself.

MMo: I will be at the Senate meeting, both documents/memos on our EPC drive are in alignment. Let me know what your opinion is. There is one from EPC and one from FSAC. Emily said there is some movement from the administration but no official gesture from the administration. Basically three issues, curricular overreach is problem #1, faculty governance gets to unilaterally change CS codes, problem #2 department chair is responsible for hiring within the department, hiring happens without department chair's input this takes rights away from department chair, problem #3 is a workload issue displace faculty and staff with administrators seems not okay with me, CFA will have plenty to say about that.

KD: I am in full support and agreement with the three points that Matty has suggested.

MJ: I like the way you articulated these issues, some grievance, what I like about the way you framed them are clear, this is our purview and this is important, stick to the facts, these are the things that are the purview of faculty governance and the faculty chair. This is the thing we want to say.

MMo: We are the faculty, and we control the curriculum.

MJ: Make that clear, since we do have a lot of new deans.

MMo: Had a conversation with Dean Wade (S&T Dean), in a kind of dean-centric way. Changing the structure of this course in general is not okay and then to do that on February 5 seems wrong. Feels like a smoke screen. Also some COVID 19 stuff was brought up, and that distracts us from the points/issues as well.

SS: Matty my question is, or my presumption is, there are procedures that are state wide that are written down, and those procedures were not followed, in this particular case.

MMo: Absolutely, the Dean was at SF State previously so should be aware of protocols and practices of the CSU.

EE 345, EE493 and A3 Waiver (See Curriculog and Google drive 3/4)

SB: Many CSU's waive A3 for engineering, waive it for more freedom for Engineering majors.

EA: Courses approved at GE, hoping to get it through soon, EPC will review them today so courses can get approved. Time sensitive for the A3 waiver.

JL: Engineering is 120 unit degree. For Engineering to get in compliance with the spirit of our new GE program they put forth an A3 waiver request, so they can stay under 120 units. They are also proposing 2 new GE courses, EE 345 and EE 493 which will allow Engineering to stay under 120. If they do not get these three things approved (waiver and 2 GE courses), they will need to request to go over the 120 units required. We don't want that to happen.

SB: Will also help with the admissions and transfer process, no longer needing individual waivers.

MMo: The accreditation process is the reason why Engineering and Nursing have these issues.

KB: Have to leave, but in full support

MMo: Move to approve.

MEW: Seconded

All approved

Meeting ended 11:53am

Submitted by Kristen Daley