

Educational Policies Committee  
Minutes for March 20, 2008

Members present: Thaine Stearns (chair), Karen Brodsky, Carmen Works, Sharon Cabaniss, Lynne Morrow, Kirsten Ely, Charles Elster, Dolly Freidel, and Steve Bittner (recorder).

Agenda approved.

Minutes for February 21 and March 6, 2008 approved.

Discussion items:

1. TS said that EPC still needs to clarify the procedures for program review, particularly regarding what issues departmental representatives should address when they visit EPC, and what kinds of documents the two-member review teams should author.
2. TS reported on the summary meeting with WASC representatives. He said that WASC representatives were pleased with the five-year, program-review cycle adopted since their last visit to SSU. TS also said that WASC representatives described Univ 150 (FYE) as a "paradigm for future curricular planning."
3. TS reported on a personal meeting with Mark Merickel, the Dean of Extended Education. TS said that EPC may want to revisit the 1996 guidelines under which Extended Education operates. TS also said that EPC should consider drafting university-wide guidelines for distance learning, similar to Extended Education's new criteria for evaluating online courses.

Business:

1. Stephen Galloway, chair of the Art Department, returned to EPC to discuss the program review for the Art Studio major. Galloway noted that the last program review for Art Studio occurred in 1988. He said that the recent review was a worthwhile experience that helped the department adjust its scheduling to better manage the curriculum. He noted that financial constraints prohibited the hiring of a painting professor and the construction of a digital laboratory that might be used as a university-wide, multimedia repository. Galloway said the latter problem, in particular, made it difficult for the Art Department to attract students who are considering other universities. KE said that the primary value of program review is to the department, not the university. SC said that SSU was failing its students by making inadequate investments in digital technology. DF said that the now defunct Library Information Technology Committee considered similar issues more than ten years ago. TS encouraged Galloway to develop curricular proposals that required the use of a digital laboratory.
2. Gisela Wendling (Psychology) told the committee about revisions to the M.A. program in organizational development, which is run through the School of Extended Education. Wendling said there was a need to provide a better capstone experience for students in the M.A. program. To this end, the Psychology Department added four units (spread over three classes) to the program, bringing it to 40 units total. Wendling said this will require students to spend more time in class. SC asked about the costs of the program. LM and CE asked about the content of the revised courses.

SC moved to waive the first reading.

DF seconded.

Approved unanimously.

KE moved to extend for two minutes.

CE seconded.

Approved.

KE moved to approve.

DF seconded.

Approved unanimously.

3. CW presented the revised guidelines for the academic calendar. She said the revised guidelines address YRO, and needs of the School of Education, and EPC's desire that there be at least four weeks of instruction after any week-long holiday. The revised guidelines also allow the university to remain in session on Presidents' Day.

SB moved to approve.

KB seconded.

Approved unanimously.

4. Mark Merickel, Dean of Extended Education, spoke about the challenges he has encountered since arriving at SSU. Merickel circulated a new mission statement for Extended Education. He committed himself to greater budgetary transparency. He said that Extended Education's balance sheet was decimated by YRO. The new August intersession is one attempt to offset this lost revenue. He also said that his fundamental charge, which was made clear when he was hired, is to avoid running a deficit. All of Extended Education's initiatives, including the Singapore program, will be reevaluated in light of this charge. DF asked whether there was a directive to Extended Education to be more profitable. LM said there was a perception among faculty that the CFO intends to use Extended Education as a bank for the rest of the university. SC asked about the bond for the Green Music Center. Merickel said he did not fully understand the challenge posed by the bond when he was hired.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.