

Educational Policies Committee
Minutes for April 10, 2008 Meeting

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

The agenda was approved.

The minutes for the March 20, 2008 meeting were approved.

Consent items

EPC letters to Art Studio and Art History regarding Program Review (included as attachments) were approved as consent items with no challenges.

Reports:

Chair (Thaine Stearns)

- Carmen Works has been selected to receive the university Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations!

- APC Committee subcommittee is currently beginning to meet regarding planning for an academic unit to house University courses, including UNIV 150, which was approved at the Senate's last meeting. Thaine and Nathan Rank are on the subcommittee. Faculty who teach the university courses will be consulted. The plan is for the unit to be headed by a faculty member who will have dean's status.

- Program Review Process: Thaine led discussion of how to proceed with Program Reviews that do not have the signatures of School Curriculum committees and Deans. The committee agreed that these signatures should be in place before review by the two member team from EPC. Thaine suggested that the procedure might be revised from a list to a time line or flow chart. Kirsten volunteered to lead work on this next semester.

Vice Provost (Carol Blackshire-Belay): No report

Academic Planning Committee (Thaine Stearns): A memo from Susan Kashack to the faculty asking for quick feedback on the Strategic Plan was premature. The committee is planning a more extended period response on the plan.

Graduate Studies Subcommittee (Charles Elster): The University Graduate Showcase was a success with over 200 attendees. The Committee is moving forward again in planning a retreat for beginning a strategic plan regarding graduate programs at SSU. The committee will also revisit the issue of unclassified post-bac students. The GSS Chair would like to be on the agenda to report to the EPC. Committee members should send to Thaine items they would like the Chair to address.

General Education Subcommittee (Carmen Works): The Committee has done reviewing learning objectives for Area B and are currently reviewing Area D. Assessment workshops and their outcomes might help further program reform more accurately. New GE courses must address these objectives. If departments are interested in teaching in any area in the future they are welcome to attend sessions. A new Blog is up with comments on the learning objectives. GE courses must also be three units except for some exceptions. The unit question has been discussed for several years now and continues to be discussed.

Senate Budget Committee (Kirsten Ely): The committee is working on metrics to measure work load issues in order to justify what is needed in the budget.

University Council on Educator Preparation (Steve Bittner): The grading of Single Subject PACT teaching portfolios by faculty outside education has stalled.

University Standards Committee (Sharon Cabaniss): Waivers for GE substitutions are under discussion with consultation from the GE Sub Committee.

Business items

1. Program Review of Business Administration (AACSB Accreditation Report)

Guest Terry Leuce, Department Chair, gave a response to the letter from EPC composed by Thaine, Carmen, and Kirsten). He described AACSB Accreditation as a long process required by a demanding accrediting body. One challenge has been to formulate rigorous policies that do not interfere with the informal collegiality of the department. Resources continue to be an issue, with the need for costly data bases, for more assigned time to deal with faculty governance, and for filling current searches with a small job pool. The program review has helped the Department in its talks with the Provost in justifying needs for resources over the coming years. Thaine will send the report forward to Dr. Lease and to Academic Affairs.

2. UNIV 102 and UNIV 150 Catalog names: Guests Wanda Boda and Elisa Velasquez, guests explained the confusion in names with UNIV 102 and UNIV 150. Sharon Moved and Dolly seconded the following motion: The Committee accepts the following names: UNIV 102, First Year Experience and UNIV 150, Freshman Year Seminar: Identity and Global Challenge.” The motion was approved with one abstention.

Thaine noted that this vote has in effect given EPC oversight of Master Catalogue changes in the absence of a Department Chair.

3. Voluntary System of Accountability

The Executive Committee of the Senate has charged EPC with filling in the box entitled University Learning Outcomes on the last page of the College Portrait packet. Kirsten moved and Lynne seconded the following motion: to refer this task to the General Education Sub-Committee and not to look at general university objectives until the GE

objectives have been set. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. Tim Wandling and Kirsten have asked to be involved in this task.

Discussion Items

Curriculum Guide needs to be revised and EPC should undertake to do so. Carmen Works volunteered to head this effort.

Program Reviews are in limbo pending team meeting (Lynne) and appropriate sign-off (Kirsten and Charles).