

Educational Policy and Governance (EPAG) Committee Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2011

Present: Kendrick Brown, Janet Folina, Terri Fishel, Taren Kingser, Terry Krier, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Sonita Sarker, Patrick Schmidt, Tom Varberg (Chair), Harry Waters Jr.

1. Minutes of April 14 approved as circulated.
2. **Update on Cognitive Science** - the Chair of EPAG met with Brooke Lea and encouraged him to respond to the suggestions that were presented by EPAG in the memo. It is anticipated that EPAG will have a revised proposal in the fall.
3. **Update on EPAG meeting next week** – As shared in today’s email, we will meet at 11 with the new members for next year from 11 to 11:30 and both welcome the new members and celebrate with the members who will be leaving the committee. Kate Hamilton, student representative, will be invited to the 11 to 11:30 gathering. At 11:30, we will start Allocations business.
4. **Course Change Memo** – we had a discussion about the computer senior capstone changing from one to two credits. There are two semesters required so it is moving from a total of 2 credits to 4 credits. Questions were raised about the teaching load and the requirements for the major. Jayne will contact CS to get the answers. The deadline is May 7th to send the course change memo out.
5. **Discussion of upcoming accreditation** – Provost Murray outlined a proposal from the Higher Learning Commission that was received by President Rosenberg that is related to our next accreditation review. The Higher Learning Commission is revising their procedures. The President has received a letter inviting Macalester to be part of a third cohort to test the new process. There will be twenty colleges that would be included in this cohort. The Provost explained that as part of the agreement, we would receive an automatic “pass” for our accreditation that is currently scheduled to take place in 2016. The third cohort is to test the Degree Qualifications Profile that was distributed to members of EPAG. Although the timing of this is not the best, Provost Murray and Associate Dean Brown identified the pros and cons of this proposal. The deadline to express interest is tomorrow. There was some discussion among the group regarding what the benefits versus the challenges would be if we were to join this cohort. By expressing interest, we still have the option to opt out after further information is shared in July. After addressing questions and concerns, there was general support from members of EPAG to explore the option.

It was determined that the best strategy is to express interest and Kathy and Kendrick will attend the next meeting to learn more. It was also suggested that the Student Learning Committee (SLC) that has been working on the learning outcomes for student

assessment could be the group to help move forward with the new HLC process if we do participate. The decision to participate must be made in July, and it was suggested that the Provost could convene a group of available faculty who could participate in the discussion with the President regarding making a final decision to participate.

6. STEP Letter – Patrick had shared the draft letter in advance. After a brief discussion with some final suggestions from the Registrar, it was agreed to send the letter or response to the proposers Karen Saxe and Dan Hornbach.

7. GERC Writing Report – Ann shared information on a pilot project that has been developed in consultation with Adrienne Christiansen, Erik Larson, Kendrick Brown, and Nancy Bostrom. Using the common reading, *What is the What* by Dave Eggers, incoming students will be given a series of questions regarding the reading during the summer. During orientation, all students will be asked to submit a written response to the book based on these questions; this writing sample will be used in ongoing assessment efforts as well as to identify students who might benefit from additional writing instruction beyond what is provided in the FYC. The supplemental instruction will consist of a series of workshops on specific writing issues taught by select faculty members. The workshop series will be offered for 1 credit on the S/N grade base. Students who are identified as having a need for more instruction will be invited to participate, but it is not required. First year faculty serve as advisors, so they will be kept informed as well. It is anticipated about 100 students could be potentially identified as needing supplemental instruction. There was general support for the project and members of EPAG approved the awarding of one credit for the workshops. Details will be worked out during the summer.

Adjourned at 1:02.

Next meeting, May 5th, at 11:00 a.m. (note the time start at 11, not 11:30.)

Submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director