

EPAG Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2009

3:30-5:00

Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer, Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Kathy Murray, Michael Orr, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Patrick Schmidt, Robert Strickling, Tom Varberg

1. Pre-announcements: David's class won the graffiti contest!
2. Minutes from November 9th: approved with some changes that David will convey to Terri.
3. Announcements: Dean of Admissions Lorne Robinson will visit with us next week. We'll meet in Campus Center 206.
4. Meeting time for next semester: Tuesdays 3 – 4:30
5. Concentrations: when's the deadline for submission? We should have a proposal by the end of this semester. Concentrations do have to be approved by the faculty.
6. Keep in mind that we have future business items coming from WGSS, HMCS, and the Max Center review – probably for our December meetings.
7. Faculty meeting follow-up: We reviewed some of the questions that were raised at the recent faculty meeting. Do we publish the proposals that we get? There are pros and cons, but mostly pros because of transparency issues. We need to notify folks that their proposals will be posted, and that should not discourage proposals that are less than full-formed ideas or are based on wildly wishful thinking. Do we put the CDP up for a faculty vote when it's finished? As part of this discussion, we needed a review of what happened in the Academic Quality Task Force for those who weren't here when that group reported. What would happen with such a vote? Perhaps the Moodle forum would encourage a positive outcome to a vote. In the end, we concluded that a vote was not required, but that the more input the better. Are we agreed that comments on proposals should be allowed? What's the timeline, especially if we want to encourage comments? We worked backward from the needs of the earliest job-posting needs to the point where the CDP could be discussed at the first three spring meetings – concluding that we would issue the CDP approximately Feb 15th. That could even be shortened up. Allocations are due at the end of March. What about the Dec 4th deadline being too quick? We still think it is necessary and that we don't need to have full-blown proposals. How about we agree to a limit on the list of curricular opportunities, and then have this year's EPAG fill half the list, but leave the other half (or some portion) for the next year's EPAG? Hmm....that would allow for departments who don't have enough time now to flesh out ideas for next year, and could increase the commitment of future EPAG groups to the CDP.
8. David is still trying to bring the form and content of the CDP into focus. Arrows help in this endeavor. He distributed a document outlining the problem and two possible solutions -- minimalist and maximalist. The minimalist, a basic wish list, seems to not have a lot of support. The maximalist would allow for continuity

through ever-changing committees. A bird's eye view or census that includes a data site to support it is also desirable. Kathy is aiming for a data set that will be consistent across time. David lauded Patrick's language about "needs and opportunities" and tried to fit it into the handbook language. This was the hybrid version. He described some data that he dreams of having that compares us to our peer institutions. Some warn of the generalization of some of these comparisons. It will take a good amount of time to figure out the questions and get the answers. Please look at the Framework document and let David know what is missing or otherwise necessary to the document. Kathy and David will collaborate on an email that combines more information on the CDP and the allocations deadlines.

9. Music Department Review: It was noted that the mission statement was a lengthy statement of beliefs – should it be so long? There were comments on the heavy work load associated with making/teaching music. Is there perhaps something they should not do? Likely not – this is probably a typical workload for a music department in a small liberal arts college. We also talked through the difference between an institution that might offer a Bachelor of Music, and one such as Mac, which offers a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Music. Expectations vary widely between them. We agree that the faculty should engage more with Michael Porter to broaden and enrich the internship experience for students. We recognize that the department is experiencing a transition in faculty, and is making good progress towards developing and achieving their goals.

Adjourned at 5:02

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Niemi, Registrar