

EPAG Minutes  
December 2, 2010  
11:30 to 1:00  
Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Terri Fishel, Janet Folina, Gerbrand Hoogvliet, Taren Kingser, Terry Krier, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Patrick Schmidt, Chad Topaz, Tom Varberg (Chair)

1. The minutes from last week were approved as circulated.
2. The course change memo was approved as circulated.
3. FACT proposals: Four proposals were submitted. We discussed the various proposals. We note for the record that when proposals from English were discussed, Terry Krier left the room. We approved three proposals, all of which involved interdivisional collaboration. They were from faculty in Biology and English, Anthropology and Religious Studies, and Music and German Studies. Tom Varberg will communicate the decisions to the applicants, and ask their permission to post the proposals as models for future applicants. Tom will also announce this at the faculty meeting next week. Procedurally, we should consider restricting applications to one per faculty per year in the future.
4. Calendar: The discussion turned to the possibility of starting the spring 2012 semester on the Wednesday after the MLK holiday, rather than the following Monday. Kathy gave some background on the discussions she has had with student affairs staff about current length of holiday break, and increased demand for early student return. Kendrick expressed the need for an assessment day (as discussed in Student Learning Committee meetings) that systematizes the assessment efforts at both department and institutional levels. The idea of working towards increasing the number of class days in the semester was also mentioned as a future discussion item. Tom conveyed concerns about shortening the time available for various kinds of work in January, and also about the faculty reaction to changes in the calendar. Regarding January time, others chimed in about the academic impact on students and faculty – this time is about preparation for spring classes, as well as research and professional development. Students expressed concern that the semesters feel too short. A variety of synchronizations and possibilities were discussed, that we might want to take up in spring for future years. The 2011-2012 academic year calendar will stay as is currently configured, with continued discussions of an assessment day being built into the spring semester. SLC will work on the rationale for assessment day. Jayne and Kathy will look at a variety of information to consider for future calendar discussions.
5. HMCS proposal: According to the handbook, this proposal needs only EPAG approval, not presentation to the faculty for a vote. We discussed some historical background and how this proposal might or might not intersect with other departments, such as American Studies. We're tabling the request for now so that the Provost can have conversations with the department and perhaps others.
6. We confirmed that we are meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

7. Discussion turned to the CDP. Terry reminded us of our conversations about “collaboration” and that we all may be defining that term differently. So the idea of faculty – student collaborations is now a bit more comfortable for the humanities faculty than it was in previous discussions. Research mentoring is another term that might be used. Is this mentoring or collaboration something that distinguishes Macalester from our peer institutions? If so, we need to find a way to highlight or embed that in the CDP. Next we returned to discussion of “population health”. Is it really only a grad school topic, or is there some “Macalester” way to do this? We agreed to talk some more about this notion next week, perhaps using a broader nomenclature.

Adjourned at 1:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayne Niemi, Registrar