

EPAG Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Noon-1:30 Campus Center 214

Holly Barcus, Kendrick Brown, Janet Folina, Kate Hamilton, Ann Minnick, Yeukai Mudzi, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Sonita Sarker, Patrick Schmidt, Harry Waters Jr., Chris Willcox

1. The minutes from the February 29th were approved with one correction (Jayne was there.)
2. Holly reported about the her experience reviewing proposals for study away. A subset of the total number of proposals were brought to the full review committee for various issues such as requests for year-long study and potential candidates for a switch from spring to fall semester. Many students who were directed to switch semesters ended up appealing to the Provost. Kathy said some of the appeals involved issues that we can address at the point of advising or application, such as signed apartment leases. We noted the need for stronger and constant communication regarding the possibility of being approved for a semester -- students may be approved for off-campus study but not for their preferred semester.
3. We discussed the GER Committee's Quantitative Thinking report. Some things of interest that were mentioned included the self-reported "guessing" behavior, the sense that most students performed well enough and the perception of vagueness of the overall goals and objectives. We need to build consensus about what should be taught and what students think. It is not always recognizable which course is and isn't a "Q" course. Kendrick said that the Assessment Office is beginning the longitudinal study of QT. We recognize that our culture is beginning to change from avoiding mention of assessment to embracing it. It was suggested that EPAG recommend to the Provost that she allocate resources for CST to convene a study group to work through the questions in the report. Should there be a director or facilitator to do that? An EPAG task force? We want to include more than just Q faculty so that advisers across campus can understand and participate in the clarifications of the requirement. We think a full semester of those conversations to "discover" the differences of opinion, talk it through and achieve consensus to bring to EPAG. This could result in a recommendation that Q courses have a standard syllabus statement. Could this be done over the summer or in the fall semester? The conversation on Friday might help us to see who is most engaged and might be recruited and which EPAG representative might monitor or facilitate such a group. Let's think about this next week after hearing the Friday discussion at the Serie Center.
4. Patrick shared his latest effort at a motion regarding the Writing requirement, written after he had feedback and direction from department chairs. Kendrick walked reviewed some history of the requirement's passage and then suggested adding language about student learning outcomes to Patrick's motion. We discussed our options and will return to this consideration next week.

Adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Niemi

Registrar