

EPAG Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2013

3-4:30 pm, Markim 201

Present: Zach Avre, Holly Barcus, Kendrick Brown, Terri Fishel, Janet Folina, Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez, Kathy Murray, Ann Minnick, Sonita Sarker (Chair), Jaine Strauss, Chad Topaz, Harry Waters, Jr., Joelle Vitiello

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes - minutes approved as distributed.
2. Faculty Handbook – Handbook, with edit comments and rationale provided in the margins, has been distributed for the Faculty meeting on March 12th.
3. QT (brief update and process) - Students discussed in MCSG, and the report has been sent out to open forum. Several thoughtful questions from students. How exactly will Macalester students deal with the changes. Excited that there were more opportunities, worried that the QT requirement was "dumbed down." Generally o.k. with changes.

Brief discussion about some of the questions -

- Will there be more Q3 offerings over Q1? There will be a range with about the same distribution. Think there will be more Q2s, Q3's about the same. Everyone who taught a Q course in 2012 was included. Some faculty no longer teaching at the college.
- How hard will it be to accomplish QT goal? Don't think it will be any more complicated, but it will be clearer.
- How much of the class time does the class have to spend to have a QT requirement? The goal is to encourage more people to think how their course contributes to QT. By more carefully defining the goals, there would be more courses. GERC will review assignments that are submitted for review to achieve a QT requirement. If the change is approved, the slate is wiped clean, and everyone has to reapply. On the specific issue of amount of time spent, might be an issue for EPAG to review later in terms of ensuring that it is included as a criterion in GERC evaluation of eligible course sections? The question was raised as to why not have a single QT requirement? Original intent was to spread courses across divisions so that they would not be concentrated in math.

Students suggested that information about the QT requirement be included in the syllabus.

The next steps will wait until feedback is received in the open forum. The deadline for faculty to respond is March 14. We had a brief discussion on whether this issue becomes a motion or not. If we need to make a motion, the deadline for the next faculty meeting is two weeks. It was asserted that if we're not changing the basic principles for the requirement, then no motion required. No decision was reached. We will wait to see feedback in open forum.

4. USM (attachment last week; brief update and process) - discussion at noon tomorrow in CST. Kendrick sent report on behalf of the committee. Duchess Harris will be facilitating the meeting at CST. The proposal emphasizes the aspects of critical thinking. Recommendation to change from USM to USID (US Identity and Difference). Students will take to MCSG. GERC will be conducting forum, but this has been handed off to EPAG so EPAG will put on a town hall. A motion appears to be in the works. While it was suggested that this may likely pass this semester, we need to decide when it would go into effect for an entering class. If this is a motion, it would need to be in the April faculty meeting. It was decided that Sonita will attend the CST session and talk to Adrienne. It was proposed that the previously scheduled listening sessions on advising to be held at the end of March be postponed and have sessions on the multiculturalism requirement. Kendrick will send the correct copy of the report and executive summary to committee members.

5.CV discussion continued (late arrivals: LAS, ANTH) - We discussed the CVs from Latin American Studies and Anthropology. One area of concern was Native American culture with the loss of Diane Glancy and Jack Weatherford. Additional topics included global health connection, and biology and classics connections. Next steps -- Sonita will work on language for this.

6. Psych Dept. Review - Kendrick and Jaine were recused for this discussion. We discussed a response from the Psychology Dept. to the external reviewers (attachment last week.) We reviewed EPAG questions that were prepared and expressed concern that several crucial EPAG questions did not get answered. Several recommendations by the reviewers were dismissed by the department. Sonita will work on a letter to the department and address issues related to the curriculum and reviewers comments.

Meeting adjourned 4:33

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director