

EPAG Minutes

April 18, 2013

Campus Center 215, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Zach Avre, Holly Barcus, Kendrick Brown, Terri Fishel, Ezequiel Jimenez, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Sonita Sarker (Chair), Jaine Strauss, Chad Topaz, Joelle Vitiello.

1. Approval of Minutes - approved as distributed.
2. Presentation by Ezequiel Jimenez – Ezequiel explained that a letter is being prepared for EPAG outlining some of the concerns students have that they feel EPAG could address. The topics include:
 - Number of study and instructional days - they would like more of them
 - Course evaluations – would like to see more inclusion in faculty tenure cases
 - Course syllabus - having them available online for students to use in selecting courses
 - Civic Engagement - as a component of more classes

The group affirmed that these were all issues that could be tackled in the next year or so.

3. Faculty Handbook Change - final edit. Sonita projected the final change and rationale for the faculty meeting. By eliminating the examples, it was agreed that this version is less complicated than the current handbook language and should provide clarity. As a reminder, if faculty ask for examples to be included, it was agreed that examples would be in the department chairs' handbook not in the faculty handbook. (See April 4th minutes.)

4. USM - Next steps - Reviewed comment submitted to Duchess and Sonita. The comment suggested adding words like "mental, intellectual, cognitive" along with "ability" in the statement where "physical" ability is mentioned. It was decided to remove the word "physical" from the revised statement and alter the phrase to "dis/ability." It was discussed and decided that we would retain the use of "Multiculturalism" as the title for the requirement. We revised some of the language in the learning outcomes. Sonita will make the final changes, attach a rationale, explain why we decided to keep the existing name for the requirement (because it aligns with the language in our mission statement) and send out the revised version to all the faculty who made comments and submitted suggestions. Sonita will also distribute to faculty who have taught a designated US Multiculturalism course in fall of 2012 or spring 2013. We have three weeks before the next Faculty meeting, so if these changes get their approval, we would be comfortable presenting the revised language at the last faculty meeting in May. We will decide at the next EPAG meeting if this revised version would be presented at the meeting.

Adjourned 4:25.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director