

EPAG Minutes

May 2, 2013

3:00-4:30 Campus Center

Zach Avre, Holly Barcus, Kendrick Brown, Janet Folina, Chad Higdon-Topaz, Ezequiel Jimenez, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Sonita Sarker (Chair), Jaine Strauss, Joelle Vitiello

Guests: new members Susan Fox , Geoff Gorham, (Terry Boychuk, Darcy Bergund in absentia) Merita Bushi, June Ban

1. Introductions of our guests and to our guests. Terry Boychuk and Darcy Burgund will also join us in the fall, Kathy Murray takes a sabbatical from EPAG for fall, and Ernie Capello will join us in the spring. Following all the introductions and announcements, we bade farewell to our guests.
2. Approval of minutes: The minutes from the last meeting of April were approved.
3. Course approval request: The committee graciously agreed to review one more course change – an addition of a 1 credit methods course in Geology. The committee approved this request conditionally, the condition being clarification of staffing. Jayne will check with Lynn Hertz and the department chair, and if all is well in that regard, EPAG approves. (NB: Staffing okayed.)
4. Recap of USM update: David Moore sent an email that signaled his contentment. Sonita reviewed the plan for the faculty meeting. Implementation –effective with Fall 14 course offerings; for the transition for students USM will satisfy USID.
5. As for the other motion about the handbook, examples will reside in the Chairs handbook and the Registrar’s Office, as previously discussed.
6. German Studies: Review, report of reviewers and response were discussed. Discussion of the language fair came up – in the context of other courses, requirements, departments. Regarding native speaker issues, Kathy has done an analysis of native speakers across all languages. Enrollments are robust compared to enrollments nationally but we still have issues, particularly in upper level courses. We need clarification to understand the extra hour, and its relationship to German for reading. Structure vis a vis enrollments – we are curious to see how the new plan plays out. The idea of a January program with Environmental Studies met with enthusiasm.
7. The Second Language Proficiency: thanks to this group. Among the many things they accomplished, they brought language up to date and corrected errors from the past and emphasized the relationship of language and culture. There are some other questions that relate to assessment of this graduation requirement. Work on this committee, and the ACTFL workshops helps or will help each department define their expectations. More activities on this front – what does EPAG need to do next?
8. Is this our last meeting? Usually, but we have more stuff to finish. Can we meet? Yes, we will. Same time next week.

Adjourned at 4:29

Respectfully submitted by Jayne Niemi, Registrar