

## EPAG Minutes

September 25, 2014

Campus Center 214, 3-4:30

Present: Kendrick Brown, Ernie Capello, Terri Fishel, Susan Fox, Geoff Gorham (Chair), Aaron Hymoff, Erica Lee, Mark Mazullo, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Karen Saxe, Jaine Strauss, Joelle Vitiello

1. Approval of Minutes for 09.18.14 ([google.docs/drive](#)) - minutes approved.
2. Course Approval (posted to moodle). Jayne gave a brief overview of procedures related to course approvals and explained that most requests are routine, but there may be exceptions that Jayne will call attention to and explain the issues. Brief discussion on a special request for adding a new course on 'sustainability' without a designated department, but rather INTD. It was determined that the course should instead reside this year with the department designation of the faculty member teaching the course (POLI in this case). Concern was also expressed about the number of new additions without equivalent cancellations. Jayne will communicate regarding the new course and a revised memo will circulate to faculty for review and response for a time period of three weeks. After three weeks, the catalog is updated.
3. Preliminary Review of Hispanic Studies "Curricular Renewal" document – major/minor revisions (moodle; See also Hispanic Studies documents in 'Departmental and Concentration Reviews' folder on moodle) - This proposal was in response to their review and EPAG affirmed the change. It was suggested that all references to "he/she" be replaced with "the student." With minor corrections to the language, the document was approved.
4. Continued Review of EPAG Recusal Policy (revised policy posted to moodle and [google/docs](#)) - allows individual EPAG members who may be involved in steering group not be compelled to recuse themselves. The goal was to aim for consistency and fairness in recusal practice. It was mentioned that the document only referred to faculty and students, but there are times when Ex Officio members may need to recuse themselves. "Any committee member" will replace mention of individual types of members. Concern about student members who are majors in a department under review was discussed as students have opportunities for input in other venues. It was agreed that if an individual had significant investment, there was likely to be a conflict of interest. Geoff will make adjustments and the document was approved for internal policy for EPAG.
5. Continued Review of Concentrations Policy ([google.doc/drive](#) – revised policy posted to moodle and [google/docs](#)). Lengthy discussion on concerns about how to determine what constitutes a successful concentration and whether EPAG is able to limit the number of concentrations. The issue of resources versus letting "a thousand flowers bloom" was repeated. Resources include faculty time and commitment as well as staff support for the concentrations. If we want to provide resources, EPAG has to be able to make decisions on criteria for successful concentrations and criteria for discontinuing concentrations. Most concrete problem is that we have opportunity for a significant number of new interesting concentrations, but those won't be successful unless they receive significant real financial support. Concentrations could be distinctive and we want to build really great ones, but can't do it without sufficient support. The

