

EPAG Minutes

October 2, 2014

Campus Center 214, 3-4:30

Present: Kendrick Brown, 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 September 25 2014: Minutes were approved as distributed.
1. Updates and Announcements from the Chair: Geoff communicated our approval of changes to the major and minor to the Hispanic Studies department. He reminded the Board of Trustees reps to attend their designated committee meetings, and return prepared to give a quick summary at our next meeting. He had his first liaison meeting with major committee chairs (RPC, Personnel). He asked Kendrick to talk a bit about the advisory committee work to replace the Dean of Race and Ethnicity position being vacated by Jane Rhodes.
2. **Divisional Representation:** We re-confirmed the notion that divisional representation on EPAG did not carry formal representative status, but existed to bring views from the various divisions to the institutional discussions at EPAG. It's meant in the broadest sense of "representative".
3. Discussion of Concentrations: Geoff had prepared a list potentially decidable principles about concentrations. There was lively discussion of a need for learning goals/outcomes, the need for each to have a rationale for why it exists and what it provides to its audience, the impact of concentrations on resources and faculty workload, the possible value of a taxonomy which might help the resource issue but squelch creativity. Also discussed were the possible ways to act on reviews of existing concentrations -- should they continue, go away, be merged with another? We talked about shorter time periods between reviews, as well as a general agreement about basic principles about a minimum number of departments (3), disciplines (2), and overlap with majors, minors and other concentrations. There seemed to be interest in highly recommending a culminating experience, but not an entry one, although there was a lot of interest in non-credit-bearing gatherings. Flexibility and fluidity seemed more suited to concentrations than a whole lot of structural rules. Early on in the discussion, there was affirmation of the profound intellectual reasons for the existence of concentrations, especially for the faculty. Some points in that discussion included the subject matter existing in isolation within departments, but with concentrations there are new uses of courses, different intellectual questions that emerge with other disciplinary perspective, thus consciously expanding the faculty's intellectual contribution to the topic.
4. Strategic Plan draft: will be discussed next week(?)

Adjourned at 4:27

Jayne Niemi