

EPAG Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 4:00 to 5:30

Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Stephanie Ewbank, Pete Ferderer (Chair), Terri Fishel, Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Terence Steinberg, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

1. Introduction of student representatives: Stephanie Ewbank is a junior political science major, legal studies minor and Human Rights & Humanitarianism concentrator. Terence Steinberg is a sophomore economics major, with interest in Environmental Studies and Latin American Studies.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved with a minor change removing a reference to see another appended document.
3. Review of the General Education approval process: We made note that the subcommittees may need a longer time between deadline and notification; that at least one of the subcommittees feels that the criteria is too broad in some cases; that we should remind faculty about the ease of recertification. Pete created a table of the number of courses in each requirement. He made some estimates of per semester needs when the entire student body is under the new requirements. Also, he had a chart that shows which courses were certified, recertified or not when offered. There was some concern expressed about level and access issues. Kathy mentioned that she had pulled together some people to discuss possible professional development for those who want to teach multiculturalism courses. Sometimes the issues of recertification have to do with staffing. Pete also distributed a proposed policies document. Transfer students – where do we place this policy – in the catalog, and on the Registrar's website. We recalled that study away courses could be used to meet the General Education requirements – this will mostly happen after the student has returned. What about retroactivity? After some discussion, we decided to stay with the standard of not allowing retroactive approval. Individual student(s) who are in graduation trouble because a course was not proposed can make a request under the provision that's already stated in the student handbook. As for the course application process itself, Jayne will send the emails about upcoming deadlines and reminders instructional. Also, Jayne will investigate any tech options, or options to do with room assignment or other things that are important to the lives of faculty. Using the book order model is interesting but with our bookstore plans so uncertain, we can't count on it. There was additional discussion about a professor's incentive to participate, and moving to more of a trust model.
4. We reviewed the letter to Mike Monahan. We agreed that EPAG should have greater involvement in developing new Macalester-administered programs, and that approval of these

programs by EPAG is required. The library rep model with visits seems most popular. Pete will make some revisions to the letter, which we will discuss again at the next meeting.

5. Adjourned at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Niemi, Registrar