

EPAG Minutes Wednesday, October 29th, 4:00 to 5:30

Campus Center 214

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

1. Minutes: approved with corrections.
2. Handbook revisions have been sent to the secretary of the faculty for distribution prior to the next faculty meeting.
3. Pete reported that Mike Monahan is working on the IC representative system and is open to suggestions. Carleton also reported on his conversation with Monahan about EPAG's representation on bodies developing Mac-sponsored study away programs. We still think that earlier involvement is better. We briefly touched on other issues surrounding the development of such programs.
4. PICR (President's Initiative for Curricular Renewal): Pete and Adrienne conversed about this & he reported on it. There is money to develop courses that could meet the US Multiculturalism requirements. There is also work being done on developing courses that encourage new models for developing student and faculty collaborative research.
5. Course changes: Jayne distributed a draft of the course change memo. Please email Jayne if they look okay to you, not okay, or if you have questions. We will discuss the art department's questions about the fine arts distribution requirement, and giving special designation to differentiate between history and studio courses next week.
6. General Education Requirements: We had a brief report on progress of the current application round. We then turned to the audit of the courses approved for the last three semesters. First, we must note that the numbers are small and therefore small changes result in large variations. We noted great Humanities division participation. We note a shortage of courses in multiculturalism, and variations in the numbers semester to semester. It should be noted that the non-tenure-track number contains many long-term Mac adjuncts – a good thing. Multiculturalism courses appear to be offered more as topics courses, which could be a cause of concern. It's notable who does and doesn't have writing courses – is it because the writing requirement is too restrictive? What can we do to encourage departments to participate – can we target any particular areas to contribute? How can we assess the burden of individual faculty? The provost is willing to work individually with departments to encourage participation. We'll keep updating this data as new rounds of approvals go forward.

7. At 5 p.m., EPAG adjourned, and morphed into Allocations. Pete's spreadsheets were provided to help provide more context, as needed. We discussed the current economy and how it might affect faculty searches in the near future, and our flexibility for the not-so-near future.

8. Adjourned at 5:42.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Niemi, Registrar