

## EPAG Minutes

Wednesday, November 19th, 4:00 to 5:30, Campus Center 214

Aaron Brown, Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer (Chair), Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Tom Varberg

1. Minutes: The minutes from November 12<sup>th</sup> were approved with minor corrections.
2. Reports and updates: David Wheaton will be showing up around 5:05 to give us an update on college finances. The Grants Committee met yesterday. The search committee for the new Director of Academic Programs has begun interviewing finalists. The Mellon Curricular Pathways grant offers a lot of money to fund student/faculty collaborative research.
3. Tom Varberg distributed a draft of possible changes to the General Education approval process. We'll talk about it at a future meeting.
4. Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring EPAG: We discussed the report and the process by which we should consider it. Some discussion points are summarized here. The emphasis on improving the strategic planning role of EPAG is crucial; equally important is the necessity to have a viable means (process) of eliminating departments. However, we should consider them separately. If the membership of EPAG is restructured, the resulting structure could allow a very small number of people, not necessarily broadly representative, to eliminate departments. Shall we separate out the elimination of the departments, and consider it as a separate issue? Yes, the group agreed to table Proposal 2B for now. There seem to be two threads weaving through these proposals: money and chairs/departments. If we pull at those threads, some natural untangling may follow. The Associate Provost role was discussed and at least partly envisioned as a constant communicator, someone who sees to the implementation of policy set by EPAG, a representative of the Provost in various venues. We are therefore in agreement on Proposal 3A. Is it necessary for the Provost to be on EPAG? EPAG represents the faculty to the administration – what kind of distance is appropriate? Should there be a re-alignment of the Provost's relationship to EPAG? Even if we decide that the Associate Provost should be an ex officio member of EPAG instead of the Provost, this does not preclude visits by the Provost, initiated by either EPAG or the Provost. The current Administrative Liaison Committee will be meeting tomorrow, and Kathy will share the Ad hoc report with them.
5. David Wheaton arrived. He gave us an update on how the College is and will be affected by the current economic conditions. Our revenue stream will probably slow; its growth will contract. Our emphasis should be on maintaining what we already do well and keeping the College accessible to students. Doing new things will require more creativity. The duration of the "tightness" is one of the big questions. We engaged in some Q & A about student loans, student/faculty ratios, and need-blind admissions.

6. Returning to the discussion described in Item 4 of these minutes, we talked about Proposal 2A, which asks for clarification of the roles of the Provost and EPAG in the allocations process.
7. On a final note, Kathy endorsed the idea that the Library Director be an ex officio member of EPAG. It was noted that the arguments against adding more ex officio members was more about other units that then might ask to be represented in such a fashion.
8. Adjourned at 5:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Niemi, Registrar