

EPAG Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2009
3:30-5:00
Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer (chair), Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Terence Steinberg, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

1. We introduced ourselves for the benefit of our new student representative Terence Steinberg, and the new Director of Academic Programs, Ann Minnick.
2. Minutes of December 10, 2008 were approved with two minor corrections.
3. Pete's announcements and reminders: Three departmental reviews will be happening this semester: Music in February, Biology is next, then Math and Computer Science. We will see the self-studies soon, and will be asked to provide any additional questions to Lynn Hertz. Program accordance documents will need to be reviewed. The deadline for the latest spring 2009 General Education applications has passed and the documents sent to the subcommittees. We approved the Chinese minor last semester, and Pete will arrange for the motion to the faculty. We wondered, "What's up with allocations?" There has been no call for allocations from the Provost, so Pete will check with Kathy. Student Government has asked EPAG to remind us about the Summit for student representatives.
4. Course changes were approved as outlined in Jayne's draft memorandum. The final version of that will be distributed to the full faculty on February 2nd.
5. We discussed assessment of the General Education courses. Danny Kaplan's memo raised some questions, and we aren't clear on the answers, so EPAG as a whole will not provide a formal endorsement. We're comfortable with the idea of the QT folks getting together for discussion of the requirement, but not with endorsing specific things like exams as assessment tools. We're excited at the prospect of faculty getting together for these kinds of conversations.
6. We discussed the proposal to create small faculty assessment groups and use the IDEA form if possible. Kathy met with Karl Wirth and Nancy Bostrom about this earlier. See the document "Plan to Assess General Education Courses" of January 25th. We are unclear on the goal of the assessment and how the data derived will be used – is it to assess effectiveness of the requirement, satisfy accrediting agencies, improve what we do – which? All? Ann shared her experience with recent assessment efforts in another state. There is a memory of the chairs of the Subcommittees having already generated supplemental questions for the IDEA forms, and this could be a starting point. It's important that students be aware how the extra questions would be used. We conversed about requiring Gen Ed teachers to participate, without making it a disincentive to teach a Gen Ed course. Let's ask folks to volunteer to participate. More names were suggested for the committees discussed in the plan.
7. Portuguese minor: Is it really separate, or is it a fourth way to get a minor in Hispanic Studies? The language in the document confused us. Pete will invite

Chair Molly Olsen to meet with us for clarification. There were some questions about FTE and availability of courses.

8. EPAG restructuring: We talked a bit about what questions remain. There is more discussion to be had despite the progress made last semester.

Adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Niemi, Registrar