

EPAG Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2009

3:30-5:00

Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer (chair), Terri Fishel, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Andrew Meeker, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Terence Steinberg, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

1. Minutes of February 16, 2009 were approved, with an addition to item 4 regarding possible changes to the handbook to include limits on the extent of minor and major course overlap.
2. Dates for Allocations Meetings: We finalized the meeting date and time to be March 30th and 31st. On the 30th, we'll meet from 3:30 to 5:00, and on the 31st 5:45 until we finish. We expect the number of requests to be about seven. Kathy will arrange for dinner on the 31st.
3. Program accordance: Pete sent emails to the directors of Urban Studies, Global Citizenship, Human Rights & Humanitarianism to say they are in accord. For African Studies, he added our comment about the challenges of providing two tiers of courses. The Legal Studies folks were informed that that they must be a program that offers a concentration (not a minor) and that they may not offer courses, independent projects, or internships with the LEGA prefix. MESIC received an email asking them to elaborate on the information in their first response, and informing them that it's still possible for the concentration to be eliminated from the catalog. Students currently declared in either Legal Studies or MESIC concentrations will be held, as much as possible, to the requirements in effect at the time of their declaration.
4. We will not be sending a team to the Gen Ed Assessment conference at the University of Minnesota.
5. Pete volunteered to be the EPAG rep for the Math & Computer Science review team on April 13/14.
6. Pete can't attend the IGC advisory committee, Wednesday, Feb 25th 1-2:15, CC 215. No volunteer replacements were identified.
7. Kathy announced that for budgetary reasons, we will publish the College Catalog biannually. She also talked about student-faculty collaborative research, budgets, current research conferences held in departments, and events presenting capstones and other research. Is there a chance to create a day for a student research conference, and not lose a class day in the spring? Please ponder this idea and how it might work here.
8. Requested course changes were approved, including a request for retroactive domestic diversity.
9. Restructuring EPAG discussion: Kendrick did great work noting the language changes we need to make and what process they need to endure. Is there a procedural manual for EPAG? Not that we know of, and we worry about

committee continuity. If a process or set of criteria are in the handbook, they are more transparent to the community. We have to achieve a balance between mission statement and detailed procedures, especially about allocations. This also applies to our relationship with the Admissions Office – should there be a set of “stock” questions or do we just want to describe the intent of the communication. It was suggested that we divide up the writing assignments for each section. Some may be procedural and covered in existing language – others are not. We really need to start writing so that we can present motions at the April faculty meeting. (April 4 deadline for bylaw changes – at the latest!) Maybe some waters could be tested at the March 24th chairs meeting. Pete will circulate a list with assignments.

10. The US Multiculturalism Committee on Gen Ed Assessment provided four questions for the IDEA survey and a metric.
11. Math and CS department review: We clarified that there are two paths in the mathematics major. The service orientation of the department was noted. For additional questions, we will add a question about state-of-the-art programs in liberal arts colleges and how we stack up. Also, in general, how do we improve the numbers in the computer science area – how do we buck the national trend? Pete will communicate these questions to Lynn Hertz.
12. Karin Aguilar San Juan joined us to touch base about the Mellon curricular pathways grant. She distributed a single-page description of the grant. There may be some course proposals coming as a result of these grants. Distribution of grants was described among the four participating concentrations. The grants are for developing new courses, not for course buys or replacements. There is also money for civic engagement projects. The money is meant to be resource-neutral, not to change programs into departments. We talked a bit about advising for students and educating faculty advisers. What about other pathways that might be concentrations, academic areas such as aesthetics, Renaissance studies, artistic expression? There’s some concern about overlap between concentrations, also some concern about a concentration allowing too many courses from one department. Karin noted that these same topics and conversations are happening in many venues.

Adjourned at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Niemi, Registrar