

Educational Policy and Governance (EPAG) Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2009

Present: Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer, Terri Fishel, Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn (Chair), Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Patrick Schmidt, Eric Wiertelak. We still do not have student members, but Kathy is going to check.

Kathy also inquired about allowing Ace Fellow Michael Orr to attend. Request approved and he'll attend next week.

1. Approval of minutes with two corrections concerning the functions of the GER committee.

2. GER Committee assignments

Pete reported that Brooke Lea, Ray Rogers, Mahnaz Kousha all agreed to serve. Terry Krier is also on the committee. Eric Wiertelak shared a request by the MAX Center to have an ex officio member on the GER committee. The request was approved.

3. Agenda item priorities for the year in order of priority:

- CDP
- Department discontinuance
- Allocations: Expense information
- Language curriculum development
- Assessment – clarify GER, department plans for assessment, course evaluations
- Program Overlap – connected to concentrations

The following were on the list, but lower priority

- Concentrations – who's in charge
- Grade Inflation
- Spring project presentation day
- Advanced Placement credits/ graduating in 7 semesters
- Performance pressure on athletes
- 5 credit courses being reduced to 4
- Distribution requirements – balance the fine arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences
- Developing a faculty senate system
- Performance enhancing drugs
- Steering committee for interdisciplinary depts..
- Students working fulltime

During the discussion of priorities a concern was raised regarding a conflict of interest if EPAG were to decide to recommend discontinuing a department. It is noted for inclusion when the topic is discussed.

4. Associate Dean membership on committee was made official. Kendrick is now an Ex Officio member.

5. Terry Krier agreed to attend the Grants meeting on January 13, 2010.

6. Suggestion Box/ Faculty forum

There was a brief discussion about soliciting faculty feedback on specific issues. The suggestion was to make another Moodle group site that would be used to share information and collect feedback. Emphasis is on positive suggestions, and it was decided that anonymous contributions would not be allowed, except that David is exploring a mechanism to allow untenured faculty to contribute anonymously with the help of CST.

7. Math Department Review

The summary will go to the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee and the Department Chair. It was agreed that there was satisfaction with the response to the review, but one concern was raised about the department and its need to better deploy their resources in view of lower enrollment in upper division courses. There was support for the recommendation that all courses be evaluated. Concern was also raised about the current QT structure, and how best to include this information in the 2011 review. Kendrick is hoping to collect information on the overall assessment on how the QT requirement is working. The Capstone program was singled out as a great program. Another concern was the issue of resources for specially designed first year courses. One other concern was raised in terms of the lower number in computer science compared to our peer institutions. David Martyn will draft a letter and share with EPAG for comments.

8. Math Department name and course change proposals

The course changes are routine. The name change to Math, Statistics, and Computer Science Department was approved and goes into effect immediately.

9. CDP

David distributed the Guidelines for Discussion. Discussion included the need for a vision of liberal arts education that includes voices from all divisions. It focuses on long-range goals not on short-term needs, although there may be room for both. Allocations were discussed, but concern was raised that we have a positive vision of what the curriculum can be without limiting thinking by focusing on resources. The CDP should include a list of our strengths, such as internationalism. It was recommended that the CDP track number of faculty members in the disciplines annually. David requested that members review the questions and determine if they are the right questions.

Adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel