

EPAG Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
3:00-4:30
Campus Center 214

Max Cady, Pete Ferderer, Terri Fishel, Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Kathy Murray, Ann Minnick, Jayne Niemi, Patrick Schmidt, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

1. Approval of Minutes – approved.
2. GER Situation – Pete reported that they have been meeting every week. Kendrick and Nancy have done a terrific job, focused on assessment. The timetable for assessment is to start with writing this year, do quantitative methods next year. Multiculturalism and internationalism will follow. Kendrick and Nancy are revising the assessment tool to come up with a model for direct assessment of students' writing. They have looked at different models at different colleges and are coming up with a Macalester model. They hope to collect writing samples at the end of the semester. The GER committee would like EPAG to reconsider some of the GER policies. It was suggested this be an agenda item for our next meeting.
3. Discontinuance and language survey are also agenda items for the next meeting. For the language discussion, David will temporarily transfer his responsibility as chair for this discussion.
4. CNS Name Change – The request to change to Neuroscience Studies was approved.
5. Biochemistry Concentration Proposal – The discussion included acknowledgement that the request was within the letter of what we have for concentrations. However, the major concern raised was the issue that the biochemistry major would require 98 credit hours in the sciences. 96 is currently the maximum. The discussion reiterated the concern regarding the number of courses required for biology. Questions raised included:
 - Why not a major in biochemistry?
 - What's the difference in declaring a minor? (biology declare a chemistry minor and vice versa)
 - What are other colleges doing that offer biochemistry major and how many courses are required?

In summation, the concern was that the course load required for a biology major has repeatedly come up in discussions – the more they demand from their majors, less their major can take in liberal arts. This is not a good fit for the concentration form because it exceeds the 32 credits allowed in the handbook. EPAG recommended the following response include:

- An appreciation for how important this field of study is
- Encourage the departments to come up with a new option that would stay within the parameters
- Request that they explore how our peer institutions have structured their programs
- Find a way to be distinct and yet complementary to existing curriculum

David will prepare a draft letter and ask for feedback with a paragraph to acknowledge, a paragraph to deny, and a paragraph requesting alternatives,

5. Other business

- a) Recruiting colleagues for EPAG – FPC looked at list last week – pulled names of people who haven't served or haven't served for a long time. It was again suggested that the faculty consider developing a senate system. Kathy will post the list from FPC to Moodle.
- b) Study abroad – will likely have a single deadline. There were only four applications for Maastricht. College is now sponsoring a year abroad program, but it was questioned as to when was this allowed. It was determined that this is a curriculum issue and that any new study abroad program needs to be approved by EPAG. Kathy will send the message that any new study abroad program that Macalester sponsors needs to be approved by EPAG in its early stage and vetted appropriately prior to being listed as an offering.

Adjourned at 4:15

Next meeting is Allocations which meets for lunch on the 30th.

Next meeting for EPAG on March 30th at 3.