

EPAG Minutes

January 19th, 2017

Campus Center 206

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Present: Ron Barrett, Andrew Beveridge, Darcy Burgund (Chair), Julia Chadaga, Saakshi Daswani, Remy Eisendrath, Terri Fishel, Cynthia Kauffeld, Mark Mazullo, Ann Minnick, Karine Moe, Jayne Niemi, Paul Overvoorde

(1) Approval of minutes for December 8th, 2016 - approved as circulated.

(2) Chair communications

- We are temporarily missing one member as Erik's replacement has a teaching conflict, so we are waiting on a replacement from FPC.
- NTT Voting Rights Letter sent out and so far only positive feedback.
- Exciting work this semester - two concentration proposals, and the CDP, external reviews for Media Cultural Studies and Environmental Studies, anthropology questions next week. Allocations as well as issues about pressures on curriculum. The over-enrollment and under-enrollment pressures will affect conversations about allocations.

(3) Registrar communications - Course change memo shared with group. Approved.

(4) Question from Sarah West re: formalizing second (third, etc.) major advisers. The group discussed the process for responding and process for policy change. Although there was general consensus that students should have an advisor within their major department, how departments handle declaring a major is not consistent, and minors and concentrations add another layer of complexity. It was decided to delay further conversation and revisit in a future meeting.

(5) Making Macalester ACT/SAT test optional—Remy Eisendrath reported that in talking with President Rosenberg, it is expected that a decision will be made and announced at the end of the semester, so EPAG does not need to discuss this at this time.

(6) Curricular Development Plan revision discussion - and curricular pressures. The discussion was wide-ranging with the following points expressed:

- What is the relationship between the CDP and Strategic Plan?
- Could the format be changed to be more useful and possibly changed to create a framework that would carry from year to year?
- We are continually identifying where there is need, but do we want to reaffirm the liberal arts mission of the college?
- What are the priority questions?
- What kind of inputs?
- Students across the campus who major elsewhere want to have skills in MCSC because that is where the classes are being provided. Almost 50% of math courses are at 100 level. However, the CDP should be arguing we should be looking for individuals with those skills who could teach within other departments - history, political science, etc.
- Alternatively, do we need to value other ways of thinking about the world that aren't quantitative? This may also connect to CDC new approach. Service departments offering these skills that students are wanting, versus an approach that integrates those skills into the disciplines in which students are majoring - two different approaches. Writing is seen as an example.

There is much more conversation needed about this topic and we will continue next week.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel