

EPAG Minutes

September 28, 2017

Campus Center 214, 3:00 - 4:30

Present: Darcy Burgund, Julia Chadaga, Erik Davis, Terri Fishel, James Heyman, Dan Hornbach, Cynthia Kauffeld (Chair), Kaitlyn Lindaman, Ann Minnick, Karine Moe, Jayne Niemi, Paul Overvoorde, Saakshi Daswani

1. Approval of meeting minutes: The minutes from the meeting on Sept. 21st were approved.
2. Chair communications
 - a. Remember the Board of Trustees committee meetings
 - b. Cynthia will be gone next week; Darcy will chair in her absence
 - c. Cynthia reported on meetings she attended, including FAC and the Grants Implementation Group.
 - d. Darcy reported on GERC activities - longitudinal info on QT requirement
 - e. Ann reported on pilot of athlete absence notification. Survey is going out next week.
3. Registrar Communications: Course changes were approved. A change to the capstone for Biology was also approved.
4. Request for name change from Hispanic Studies: Cynthia recused herself and Darcy presided over the discussion of the request from the Hispanic Studies department to change their name to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. We inquired about whether the Latin American Studies folks knew about the request, since that major is housed within this department. It's reported that they do know and Cynthia will ask the LAS chair (Olga Gonzalez) to send a letter of support to EPAG. Assuming that comes promptly, EPAG approves the departmental name change and will bring it to the next faculty meeting for a vote.
5. FAIR: People who attended the Fall Academic Issues Retreat shared their observations. In general, the event revealed an agreement on the value of liberal arts. It was a productive set of conversations and worthwhile use of time. Broadly speaking, many discussions were about messaging (to students and parents) and others centered around curricular issues and requirements. We talked about ideas for continuing the collegial conversation that was begun --chairs brainstorming? Another budget bootcamp for awareness of the costs of various ideas? What about sharing the notes? Can faculty meetings with light agendas be used? How does this dovetail with the Curricular Development Plan (CDP)? Can there be focus groups with students about what influences their choice of major?
6. GERC pass/fail report: Will the report be shared with full faculty and in what venue? How does EPAG react to the possibilities described? We discussed a variety of ideas and options from the report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32

Submitted by Jayne Niemi