

EPAG Minutes November 1, 2018

Campus Center 2016

Present: Eric Carter, Julia Chadaga, Devavani Chatterjea, Erik Davis, Terri Fishel, Dan Hornbach, Joanna Ingot, Ann Minnick, Karine Moe, Jayne Niemi, Charles Ofosu, Paul Overvoorde

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 18, 2018 - approved
2. Review of Monthly Course Change Memo - Reviewed and approved.
3. Portuguese minor response - Reviewed response to EPAG questions. Concern expressed about adding two independent studies in place of study away requirement and the suggestion was made to possibly reduce to 4 courses beyond the Portuguese language course instead of 5 would address concern about faculty overload with additional independent studies. Provost will meet with department chair to follow up on concerns. Revised wording for Proposed Minor in Portuguese:
The Portuguese minor requires five courses beyond PORT 221. They must include PORT 331 (Journeys through Brazil: Oral and Written Expression), PORT 341 (Afro-Brazilian Women Writers), PORT 381 (Portugal Meets the "Other") and two additional courses with prior approval from the Chair.
4. Discussion of FYC presentation at Dept. Chairs Meeting - Julia shared a summary of the discussion of her presentation. She provided a handout with language from catalog and the goals of the FYC along with questions. Some questions that came up during the meeting included:
 - Did EPAG study if FYC correlates with major choices?
 - What about departments that use the FYC to introduce students to in depth study in their field?
 - Is it possible with the increase in international students, they may have a different attitude toward liberal arts and distribution requirements?
 - What do we (EPAG) envision for the FYC?

Also expressed was concern that when students come to Macalester they don't necessarily understand what the disciplines are. The Provost shared information on a pilot that is being funded as part of the Mellon grant to test a structure of having four faculty teach a topic focused FYC in which each discipline would be represented and the faculty member would teach from their discipline perspectives. Students would rotate after 4 weeks, so the same content would be taught 4 times. Paul Overvoorde is working to collect some data that will be shared. The following three questions are being shared with department chairs and asked to submit responses to Dan Hornbach:

1. What purpose does the First Year Course serve in our department?
2. How do you define the liberal arts missions? In your view, does the FYC help to advance the liberal arts mission at Macalester? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the FYC model as it currently exists at Macalester? Would you like to see any changes to the FYC?

5. Discussion of Urban Studies Concentration Review - After brief discussion, Dan will draft a response for review before the next EPAG meeting.

Adjourned at 4:32

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director