

EPAG Minutes

Campus Center 214, 3-4:30

September 11, 2014

Present: Kendrick Brown, Ernie Capello, Terri Fishel, Susan Fox, Geoff Gorham (Chair), Aaron Hymoff, Erica Lee, Mark Mazullo, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Karen Saxe, Jaine Strauss

1. Approval of Minutes for 09/04/14 - minutes approved.

2. Further Discussion of Concentrations: Limits? Categories? Financial Support?

Members were asked to review:

<http://www.macalester.edu/provost/facultyhandbook/04curricularpolicies/04-01curricularpolicies.html>

We currently have 8 concentrations, but we could be at 12 by the end of the year. Currently we don't have any guidelines on why we should or shouldn't approve concentrations and specific procedures for eliminating concentrations. It was suggested EPAG develop a policy that included guidelines as we do for majors and minors. During discussion, concerns expressed included:

- Concentrations without a senior event diminish the cohesion
- Sustainability is a concern if numbers increase as they require staffing to support the administrative needs - currently issues based concentrations incorporating study abroad and civic engagement are supported by the IGC, but topics based concentrations such as Critical Theory do not seem to fit in that model
- Faculty commitment and the ability to participate on multiple steering committees as well as faculty who identify themselves as part of particular programs. How many programs can faculty contribute to while also fully supporting the department needs?
- Will any cap on concentrations conflict with language in the draft strategic plan?

Geoff will look at strengthening the language currently in the faculty handbook and look specifically at guidelines for approval and sunseting. Geoff will also be collecting data on number of students completing concentrations since 2008 as well as their majors. Until Geoff completes that task and the committee has a chance to look at the strategic plan, we will keep the Cognitive Science request under consideration, but will not review other requests to add concentrations.

3. Further Discussion of Internationalism GE Requirement. Possible sub-committee?

Members were asked to review GERC report (on moodle) and:

<http://catalog.macalester.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=1078>

There does not seem to be sufficient buy-in across the campus for the current proposal as submitted by GERC. Furthermore, several committee members have concerns whether the GERC proposal fully achieves the college's goals for the Internationalism GE requirement. Therefore, it was decided that a new task force would be created to reflect on the rationale for the proposal and lead an informal review of the proposed changes.

Additional faculty members from the social sciences and languages were suggested. The report will be due by the end of the semester. Members from EPAG included on this task force are Ernie Capello and Geoff Gorham. Geoff will contact suggested faculty members to be added to the task force.

4. EPAG charge to GERC to examine Distribution Requirements. It was agreed that the timing for this review is perfect based on pending accreditation review. We want to be able to clearly articulate and communicate what a 21st century liberal arts education is all about and GERC has the structure to do this. Geoff will edit the charge to reflect that the goals include evaluating the role of the distribution requirements in the liberal arts ideals of today and tomorrow and inform GERC members that they are charged and should proceed.

5. Review of Cognitive Science Concentration Proposal (moodle/groups) - As several members of EPAG were involved in this proposal, questions about recusal were raised. Geoff is going to review policies and procedures for EPAG members regarding when there is a need to recuse themselves and suggest language that clarifies. This will also apply to allocations. Discussion included whether there was a need for the stats class requirement and whether it could be an empirical methods course. Although EPAG has not been concerned with budgetary implications, it was made clear that the Provost will not approve adding any more stats classes. Geoff will review letter that EPAG sent in 2011 and we will continue discussion next week.

For next meeting:

Members should review draft of strategic plan document

Geoff will come back with a recusal policy for EPAG and allocations

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director