

EPAG Minutes

October 9, 2014

3:00 – 4:30

Campus Center 214

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

1. Approval of Minutes for 10.02.14 (google.docs/drive) - minutes approved with corrected date of October 2, 2014.

2. Chair communications.

Geoff shared information on Trustee meetings. He attended the Academic Affairs Committee and the Admissions Committee. In the Academic Affairs Committee the strategic plan was the focus of conversation and the issues of governance and advising were discussed. Admissions Committee where discussion focused on the challenging admissions environment currently facing all institutions. Other EPAG members attended Campus Life (Jaine Strauss) and Advancement (Susan Fox) where additional challenges including increasing alumni donations were discussed.

Pending work for EPAG -
Reviews

- International Studies - Oct. 10 self study is due; propose questions for external reviewers prior to campus visit Nov. 10 & 11. Geoff and Karen will meet with external reviewers on November 10th.
- WGSS - response to review
- French & Francophone Studies requested delay and their report is due December 9th

3. Continued Discussion of concentrations.

(Revised policy proposal on moodle.) Discussion focused on whether to have a cap on number of concentrations or not, but agreed there should not be a cap. However, there should be more attention on how to discontinue concentrations if they are not meeting certain criteria. It was agreed that reviewing more frequently, every three years, would provide better oversight and ability to determine when concentrations should discontinue. In the review we need evidence of ability to sustain the concentration - identify program director for the next three years as well as faculty teaching courses to support the concentration. We justify the three year review because it allows us to capture the essence of concentrations. These are opportunistic and they rise and recede, we don't expect them to stay forever. The question was raised as to what the exact criteria should be for discontinuing and Geoff will look into finding relevant documents, but we don't want strict criteria, just general guidelines such as number of concentrators and no significant overlap of other existing courses of study. Geoff will develop a document prior to next meeting. Goal is to complete the document and bring to a faculty meeting. Later in the meeting it was agreed that in addition to sharing with concentration directors, there would be an opportunity for faculty feedback in a town hall.

4. Discussion of EPAG input on Strategic Plan draft. (Draft plan on moodle)

(i) Please identify one Strategic Priority on which EPAG might usefully offer feedback.

(ii) What role should EPAG play, esp. with respect to the final 'culture and practices' priority ('governance')?

Clarification that FPC would not be forming the task force on shared government, rather they need to approve creation of a taskforce that requires faculty involvement. Topics of interest to members of EPAG included:

- diversity
- creating a culture of strategic planning
- internationalism
- stop doing things
- shared governance (3)
- not on strategic plan - sustainability
- couldn't select just one - cultures and practice topics all seemed worthwhile
- entrepreneurship (2)
- liberal arts and vocation (2)

Discussion focused on shared governance and what problem were we trying to address. Want to make sure all voices - tenured, adjunct, part-time faculty - are included and heard. More discussion to follow.

Adjourned at 4:30

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director