

EPAG Minutes
October 30, 2014
3:00 – 4:30

Campus Center 214

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, Joelle Vitiello

1. Approval of Minutes for 10.16.14 (google.docs/drive) - approved.

2. New Course Approvals - List distributed was approved.

3. Chair and committee member communications.

-- Internationalism task force (Ernie). Ernie is serving as chair of the task force and he reported on progress to bring individuals from four different divisions together to discuss ideas and opinions on the internationalism requirement. The four faculty members who have agreed to serve on task force are: Diana Shandy (Social Sciences), Devavani Chatterjea (Sciences), Julia Rogers (Humanities), and Chuen-Fung Wong (Fine Arts). General recommendations will be brought to EPAG and we will discuss. Next Monday is the first meeting and the goal is to complete the work by end of the term.

-- 'check-ins' from Curricular Committees: IDIM (Karen); ASC (Jaine); SARC (Susan); GERC (Mark), SLC (Jaine).

IDIM - nothing to report.

Academic Standing Committee meets in January.

SARC is doing its work by email. Looking at changes that went into effect this year and some concern that there have not been the normal volume of advising sessions that usually take place by this time of year.

GERC is meeting every other week. Produced a faculty survey which will be followed by lunch discussions of survey results, and then a report will be prepared for EPAG. Faculty members complimented Mark on the survey. A question was raised about the writing requirement. Jayne is revising a draft of the form and Chris Wells and Diane Michelfelder will present at a CST session. In late February there will be "GERCshops" to help people apply for the writing designation next year. SLC is working on the student learning outcome to "think critically and analyze effectively." Looked at assessment tools and now looking at department assessment information. January 31 is the deadline for the report from departments.

Update on status of CDP by Joelle. Joelle is working on a five page document that will outline recommended changes. It was suggested we review every five years instead of three year cycle. Last year we did address collaborative teaching grants and returned the tenure line used to fund those team teaching courses back to allocations. Provost funds will be available for up to three collaborative teaching proposals. With the focus on strategic planning last year, we didn't have a report for the CDP. Joelle's document will be shared with the group and the topic will be on our agenda next week with emphasis on looking at current priorities and recommendations that aren't currently attached to any tenure position. Members were encouraged to read the entire CDP in addition to the addendum prepared by Joelle.

4. Review of position description for Dean for Faculty Diversity and Development (moodle) - Kathy worked with a small advisory committee for position held by Jane Rhodes. Suggestions from EPAG

members included adding a responsibility that would include being a resource for students and adding retention of faculty. Question was raised about use of “Development” in title and possibility of confusion with CST with the suggestion that a possible alternate title could be Dean for Faculty Diversity and Curriculum Diversity. The goal is to post the job opening next Monday.

5. Concentrations Policy

-- Report on meetings with Concentration Directors and Department Chairs (moodle: summary of meetings + Bill Mosley email + data just received from Cheryl Browne about concentrators within the majors) Geoff reported on meetings, one with Concentration Directors, Oct. 21 and a second meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 26 with Department Chairs. The main concerns were summarized in a document posted on Moodle. Discussion included areas where we could continue to work on revising the language, especially the culminating experience which does not need to be a four-credit course. Suggestion was made that possible funding for culminating course could be done by pulling back the tenure track funding for line that was previously used for collaborative teaching. The dollars from that line could fund up to 12 culminating experiences for concentrations, if concentrations were offering a 4-credit course. One concentration currently offers a colloquium once every three years. One concentration offers a 2-credit colloquium, rotating among faculty members in the concentration. Concern was expressed that the culminating experience provided the “value added” that made a concentration appealing. However, it was also expressed that there is disparity between departments that offer capstones and get teaching credit and others that don’t. Two additional concerns included whether successful concentrations should transition to “minors” and the review cycle. It was suggested new concentrations would not be reviewed before 5 years, but continuing concentrations would be reviewed every 3 years. The suggestion was made that information on concentrations could be collected without any burden on concentration directors. It was also pointed out that concentrations can be eliminated by EPAG without going to faculty, but we still need criteria for what determines a successful concentration. Numbers on graduates and concentrations was prepared by Cheryl Browne and available in Moodle. Question was raised as to whether the number of students in a concentration could include the list of majors by those students. Geoff will prepare a revised document taking into consideration the concerns raised by EPAG and by Concentration Directors. We will review at the next meeting.

6. Civic Engagement graduation requirement. - The question was raised that since Civic Engagement is not represented in our graduation requirements, whether we should explore adding this as a requirement. It was decided that we would wait for the report from GERC on distribution requirements before exploring adding new requirements.

Adjourned at 4:35

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director