

EPAG Minutes
Monday, March 9, 2009
3:30-5:00
Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer (chair), Terry Krier, David Martyn, Andrew Meeker, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Terence Steinberg, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

Guests: Professors Samman and Coeey, on behalf of the MESIC concentration steering committee

1. The minutes of March 2, 2009 were approved with the correction of a minor typographical error.
2. Announcements: Pete met with Karl Wirth and Nancy Bostrom about the General Education Assessment project. There will be twelve questions that will appear on course evaluations.
3. Professors Khaldoun Samman and Paula Coeey were introduced and updated us on recent activities of the MESIC steering committee. They met last week to discuss the concentration, and there was much useful information learned. There has been a new hire in Religious Studies whose courses will fit nicely in the concentration, for example. They distributed a new accordence document. The FTE issue seems to be resolved. Advising responsibilities are spread throughout the Steering Committee. Currently Khaldoun reports five declared concentrators, two in the planning stages and several inquiries. They discussed the criteria for course selection which is described in the document. MESIC is now in accord.
4. Incompletes: Discussion of equity between the semesters, in regard to the deadline for completion of work. Jayne clarified that the Dean's Office is able to extend in cases of emergencies. Ann will clean up her document and distribute it as a draft to the faculty.
5. Merit pay question: How will information collected to determine merit pay decisions this year be used in the future when merit pay raises return? Eric reported on what he had heard during the recent AAUP meeting. If we make salary increases in the future years, Kathy will consider cumulative information from those years where there have not been salary increases.
6. Jayne gave a brief update on Fall General Education courses. Deadline for application is March 23rd.
7. Governance documents: Tom distributed a new version of his changes to section 8. There was discussion of item g, and general support for that. Is this for tomorrow's faculty meeting? If anything, this is to generate feedback for future motions and to answer any questions that might arise. David's changes: it seems like EPAG wants to have influence on long-term planning. If the call for allocations is year-by-year, then departments and EPAG are always reacting to that call. So it would be helpful if the call could be like last year's "ad hoc committee", or past strategic plans, where there are signals sent about the direction of the College. We are trying to balance priorities, flexibility and strategic planning. In all documents be sure to clean up language that blurs

relationship between EPAG and the Allocations committee. EPAG plans, and the Allocations Committee implements the plan. Maybe we should say “deliberate together” instead of reach consensus together. Also, the Provost should acknowledge both the recommendations of the Allocations committee as well as his/her decisions. Kathy reviewed what she understood of the process. We talked about balancing factors such as student demand, and making certain there are comparisons with other schools. We must acknowledge that disciplines vary in the demand for them. Peer group analysis can be useful. SO, what is going to the faculty tomorrow? Incompletes, general education application reminder, description of the allocation process under consideration, the role of the provost – need for input and reaction from the faculty. What about the other things – role of the chairs and EPAG? The overall goal of tomorrow is to let people know that we’re trying to streamline and clarify what EPAG does, and how we might do that.

Adjourned at 5:04

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Niemi, Registrar