

EPAG Minutes

January 22, 2015

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Campus Center

Present: Ernie Capello, Terri Fishel, Susan Fox, Geoff Gorham (Chair), Aaron Hymoff, Erica Lee, Ann Minnick, Karen Saxe, Jaine Strauss, Joelle Vitiello

1. Approval of minutes for 12.04.15 - Minutes approved as distributed.

2. Chair Communications

- Letter to LAS sent and a response received from Prof. Capello. Process is completed.
- Waiting to hear back from Theater and Dance regarding their curricular revision and Data Science Minor from MSCS
- Geoff presented to Faculty Meeting the current Concentrations policy draft on 12/9 - see later on agenda
- French Dept. response to external - asked for extension and granted.

3. New Feedback on Concentrations Policy - We had an extensive discussion on concentrations.

Questions raised included:

- Is it necessary to have one size fit all, or can we allow for a range?
- Could there be tiers of concentrations?
- Could there be a distinction between a concentration and a certificate of some kind?
- Do we want concentrations to remain cost neutral or create a process to become eligible for funds?

It was determined that in order to prevent a proliferation of concentrations, there need to be criteria on which to evaluate new proposals as well as existing concentrations. Only interdisciplinary programs may create concentrations and the proposals must demonstrate the uniqueness and 'value-addedness' of the concentration. A proposed "best practices" could include a template of questions for EPAG to use when reviewing concentrations. It was agreed that rather than a "culminating" experience an "integrative" experience to help students come together to form a community of scholars within the concentration would be the type of experience that will add value for the concentrations. It was agreed to provide examples of possible ways to have an integrative experience that would provide a structured means for students to reflect on their experiences whether by having a dinner, completing a poster, or a paper with a variety of options including low cost, high impact.

A final draft will be prepared and adjustments made based on all the comments. It was suggested that the proposal include a request for funding for concentrations to address part of the resource issues. Geoff will revise proposal and bring next week and then approve for distribution to broader community. Jaine volunteered to talk with concentration directors one- on- one with Geoff in order to review questions prior to bringing this to the faculty for a vote. Geoff will also create an online forum to solicit broad faculty input on the proposed IC policy.

4. WGSS Response to External Review - Reviewed and discussed. There appeared to be some confusion on "cross listed" courses which needed to be cleaned up as well as "clusters." It was agreed that EPAG is looking forward to their final proposal after addressing the issues outlined in the report. It was also agreed that joint appointments was an issue that would need to be discussed with

the Provost. Other concerns related to a two-person department were raised and the need for an inclusive and supportive student environment. Geoff will draft a preliminary letter in response.

5. Preliminary discussion of Policy on 'Targeted' TT hires - The question was raised as to having a more clearly stated policy as some felt rushed by the decision. In particular, having materials available prior to deliberation. See page 8, section 3, J. Question was tabled until next week for discussion with the Provost.

6. Preliminary discussion of Faculty Handbook language on academic dishonesty/plagiarism. See current Handbook 4, I, A and C (moodle) - postponed to next week.

7. Spring Semester EPAG tasks.

Completing reviews of French and WGSS

Taking up a response of recently completed Intl Studies Review

Asian Languages and American Studies have self studies and reviewers

RPC will have proposal for non-tenure track faculty

Move forward on internationalism as Gen Ed req

Moving into allocations - due Feb. 6th - Provost will produce list with her take

Will new Provost be included in decision making? - Ask Kathy?

Took tenure line out of CDP - funding for collaborative grants - one proposal out there - Geoff will check on the language - who is approving?

Adjourned at 4:34

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director