

## EPAG Minutes

February 5, 2015

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

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

1. Approval of minutes for 01.29.15 - minutes approved as posted.

### 2. Chair communications

- Geoff submitted changes to procedures for an internal targeted tenure track hire to the Provost and they were approved.
- Geoff sent a response to WGSS as per the discussion last week.
- A Moodle group forum for the IC proposal has been created and just needs to be turned on.
- Geoff has a meeting with Christy Hanson and the IC directors tomorrow at 3:30. He asked for an additional member from EPAG to attend, but no one was available at that time.
- Allocations are due tomorrow. Although only one request has been received by Geoff, at least one more is expected.
- The next faculty meeting, next Tuesday, will be a routine report. The IC Proposal will be presented at the March faculty meeting.

### 3. Quick review of item revised concentration policy, esp. item e

We reviewed the revised document and discussed disciplinary emphasis, which was removed as a requirement. The question of overlap and tracking was discussed and while Degree Works mimics what is in the catalog, tracking will be dependent on advisors and students. Funding was discussed and it was agreed to reword the final statement to focus on "some structured revenue source." Funding will need to come from existing funds for department programs, so whether a Department Coordinator position was reconfigured or some other measure taken, we need to make it clear that concentrations are not budget neutral.

### 4. Asian Languages and Cultures

EPAG reviewed questions for external reviewers (google; self-study on moodle); EPAG representatives to meet with reviewers -- March 9 or 10. Questions are in Google, self-study is in Moodle. Geoff wants the questions finalized so that they may be sent to the reviewers on Friday (tomorrow.) Members expressed appreciation for question 7 related to Study Away. An issue raised was whether there are geographic gaps in the curriculum regarding other parts of Southeast Asia. Geoff will expand in question 6. The complexity of the major (8 majors) will be addressed by the reviewers. Reviewers will be on campus March 9th and 10th and Ernie volunteered to meet with them, and Karen volunteered to be the backup. It was requested that the gender neutral pronoun - "they" be added.

### 5. Internationalism GE requirement

Nearly done and Geoff will bring to EPAG next week. This issue will be the third item on the agenda next week.

### 6. THDA response to EPAG questions on Major revisions; THDA staffing plan (moodle)

Reviewed THDA response and concern was raised regarding the number of new courses and new classes that would be required from the new hire. It appears to be an ambitious proposal and the committee was concerned that the requirements include a staffing change which is not part of the plan. The current plan of team teaching the entry level classes and the effect on advising were also raised. The question previously raised about the capstone experience was not addressed in the response. It was agreed that the department is trying to do something that is bold and new, but EPAG members were concerned that it was not a sustainable plan. It was also discussed that a clear expression of how students progress through the major would help as it is currently a very complex model. Geoff will develop a response that captures the concerns of the committee.

7. MSCS response to EPAG questions on Data Science Minor proposal (moodle). Preliminary discussion last week and Geoff reported that the department is willing to reinstate the prohibition against a statistics and data science combined major. It was requested that MSCS consult with other departments that will offer pre-approved domain areas to determine the most appropriate courses to include and ensure that these same departments are willing and able to respond to any increased demand associated with the creation of this new minor and submit brief letters of support. The department also stated that they will not be providing additional courses or sections. In general, it is agreed that it is a good proposal and emerging area and cutting edge. It was determined that a statement on how this is good for the mission of the college and how it will benefit other areas is needed. It was stated that the group would like a rationale that is more visionary and related to liberal arts. They are trying to offer an interdisciplinary minor in a disciplinary department and the members would like an explanation on what are the connections. This change requires a faculty vote, so they also will need to be prepared to answer questions from the faculty during the faculty meeting. Geoff will draw up a response and bring it to this group next week. Revised and resubmit request and a vote will take place in March or April.

8. New Business - none.

9. Adjournment - 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Fishel, Library Director