

EPAG MINUTES

February 12, 2015

3:00-4:30 Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Ernie Capello, Terri Fishel, Susan Fox, Geoff Gorham (chair), Ari Hymoff , Erica Lee, Mark Mazullo, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Jaine Strauss, Joelle Vitiello

1. Approval of minutes: Approved with slight correction regarding gender neutral pronouns.
2. Chair Communication: Moodle Forum on concentrations will be open on Friday. Ernie and Geoff will represent EPAG at the Asian Languages & Cultures review. Allocation requests were received from seven departments (eight requests). Geoff met with concentration directors last Friday and it was generally positive. He went over some small changes that were suggested – one was about a 5 year staffing plan. We suggested more specificity about the director, not just leadership. We revert back to the original language about double-dipping, to keep it from being unduly harsh in five course concentrations “no more than three courses that are also any single major, minor or concentration. “ We tinkered with the language about “value added” and resources. We are still planning to take this to the faculty in March.
3. Targeted hire request: Provost presented the request from English. We considered the curricular implications and overall college priorities, including affirmative action. Geoff will email the Provost and FPC chair that EPAG has given its okay to take the next steps.
4. THDA response: Geoff shared the beginnings of the letter to THDA about their clarified plans. Our concerns are about the overall complexity of the plan, and the need to simplify it. We need a list of courses that are going away, and a list of new courses with numbers so that the staffing plan can be understood. Catalog copy needs to include frequency offering. There is still concern about production credit and how much it contributes to students deciding to minor instead of major. We looked at Susan’s spreadsheet of the staffing plan and major requirements. Stability is at least as important as variety for students to plan. Geoff will continue to work on the letter.
5. Internationalism Gen Ed requirement: Ernie and the task force submitted a memo describing the task force’s work and recommendations. They recommend against the GERC report’s recommendation for a new requirement. They agreed with the GERC report that the language of current requirement is vague and dated, and should be updated, and suggested new language. They also suggested for the future that the SLPR and USID should be considered together with the Internationalism requirement. For next week, we should look at the existing requirement, GERC’s recommendation, and the Task force recommendation. Also remember that the Learning Outcomes need to be explicitly described.
6. Susan and Karen were recused for the discussion of the MSCS request for a Data Science minor. We reviewed Geoff’s letter. Overall, with the suggested updates and changes, we are willing to go forward with approval of the minor and taking it to the full faculty.

Adjourned at 4:20, with joy and jubilation at having 10 precious minutes returned to us.

Submitted by Jayne Niemi, Registrar