

**Public Hearing on the Reorganization of the Departments of Educational Policy Studies, Educational
Organization and Leadership, and Human Resource Education
In the College of Education
Into
The Department of Education, Policy, Organization and Leadership (EPOL)**

Wednesday, March 31, 2010
Room 42a Education
3:00 p.m.

Hearing Convened by Professor Abbas Aminmansour, Chair of the Senate Educational Policy Committee (EPC) at 3:06 p.m.

Also speaking: Mary Kalantzis, Dean of the College of Education, and Professor James Anderson, Head of Educational Policy Studies and Interim Head, Educational Organization and Leadership

Opening Comments by Dr. Aminmansour

Dr. Aminmansour welcomed everyone and began by describing the terminology, and review/approval process with the campus units involved. Educational Policy Subcommittee A is reviewing this proposal, chaired by Professor Michael Krassa. The full Educational Policy Committee is meeting on Monday, **April 5 at 1:10 p.m. in Room 232 English Building** and this proposal will be discussed. The meeting is open and all are welcome to attend. Comments can be emailed to Dr. Aminmansour at aamin@illinois.edu. Comments need to be received by noon on Friday, April 2 so that the committee can read them in advance of their meeting.

Comments by Dean Kalantzis

Dean Kalantzis thanked everyone for attending and made brief remarks about the history of the discussions and the forward thinking synergy underway between the three units. Dean Kalantzis expressed appreciation to the task force who developed the proposal.

Comments by Professor James Anderson

Dr. Anderson, representing all three departments, began by thanking the synergy task force members and the faculty and students who were instrumental in bringing the conversation to this point. We are looking forward to getting to the exciting synergistic opportunities that will be available as a result of the reorganization.

Dr. Aminmansour expressed appreciation for College of Education support in this process, as well as Subcommittee A Chair Professor Michael Krassa, and Educational Policy Committee members in attendance, Professor Bettina Francis, Professor Phil Geil, and Ms. Natasha Jankowski (EOL Grad Student).

Dr. Aminmansour then opened the floor to questions from the audience.

1. **Danielle Davis, Graduate Student in EOL** - How will this affect my future as a student in the EOL program?

Dr. Anderson: Students admitted to existing programs will not be affected. Looking forward, students who are admitted to the new department will be able to avail themselves of new program and faculty expertise without going outside of their unit.

Dr. Aminmansour: Synergies are expected to enhance existing programs. Reorganization proposals do not affect existing curricula and degree programs. It is possible that proposals for curricular changes may follow a reorganization.

2. **Jennifer Greene, Professor in Educational Psychology** - Could you please give some examples of synergistic ideas that were discussed by the departments, as well as the possible vulnerabilities that might result from the reorganization?

Dr. Anderson: External threats will arise independently of the synergies in a parallel way. Tremendous potential and strength in the policy area across a number of areas. Will contribute significantly to the strategic initiatives.

Dean Kalantzis: Important to address worries, but the synergies was not a result of weaknesses but opportunities to build policy expertise.

3. **Thomas Schwandt, Chair of Educational Psychology** – How does the divisional structure proposed align with the curricular offering/structure?

Dr. Anderson: The divisional structure conversation was intentionally left out because it's ongoing, and currently corresponds roughly with existing curriculums/programs. Our faculty has a history of interdisciplinary work and do not want to be homogenous. Divisions may redefine themselves over time.

Dr. Don Hackmann, Associate Professor, EOL. We have kept the existing divisions but didn't want to include them in the proposal because they didn't want to be locked into a particular divisional structure going forward.

Dr. Aminmansour: The bylaws of the new unit will determine if and how new divisions are created. The Bylaws of the proposed unit will be reviewed by the Senate Educational Policy Committee, with special interest to the promotion and tenure and grievance procedures. However, EPC will not approve or disapprove the proposed bylaws. In fact, the proposed bylaws can be changed by the faculty in the new unit at a later time.

4. **Tony Laing, graduate student in EPS** - Has there been any discussion about assistantships and fellowships in the future and for students who are here?

Dr. Anderson: While the new department theoretically has a reduced capacity to obtain campus /state funded fellowships, it will pursue increased aid through external funding and on-line programs.

Dean Kalantzis: The College is providing two scholarships to ameliorate the impact on graduate student assistantships that may have resulted from the reorganization.

5. **Rick Kubetz, graduate student in EOL** - How will this affect national rankings of existing programs?

Dr. Anderson: A review of peer institutions shows that we'll be one of the strongest units

and we are fully aware of what is needed to improve in this area.

Dean Kalantzis: We already have a communications strategy underway to saturate the peer market once we can announce the new strengths that will result from the reorganization.

With no more questions from the floor, Dr. Aminmansour reiterated that if approved by the Educational Policy Committee on Monday, April 5 or April 12, the proposal will move to the Senate for their April 26 meeting and that this is the last Senate meeting of the semester. He added that the College will receive an implementation letter from the Provost Office when and if the proposal is approved by all pertinent bodies.

Dr. Aminmansour recognized and thanked Natasha Jankowski for her work on the Educational Policy Committee as this is her final year.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Attendance estimated at 65.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Michaels, Assistant to the Dean