A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:10 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding. For the benefit of the three new members on the committee, the Chair asked that all the members introduce themselves.

I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 15, 2004

The minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2004 were approved as written.

III. Remarks of the Chair

There were no remarks.

III. Old Business

Review Guidelines for the Academic Calendar  
Damrau gave a short synopsis of the newly proposed guidelines of the Task Force on the Academic Calendar. A Public Hearing will be held next Monday, February 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in room 100 of Gregory Hall. He noted that an ad will be printed in tomorrow’s Daily Illini to invite members of the campus community to discuss this issue that is as controversial as campus parking. The Task Force hopes to start the fall semester on a Monday versus the present policy “The first day of class, a Wednesday, shall be defined as a Monday.” Most contentious is the proposed breaking up of the full week at Thanksgiving that would make way for a 4-day weekend in mid-October. The Task Force has also proposed a “real” Reading Day for fall semester as it is presently held on a weekend; also, there would be no finals held on the weekend. Williamson pointed out that when these guidelines were followed several years ago, the Wednesday move-in date proved to be a problem for many parents. Several committee members shared their thoughts and concerns regarding the possible elimination of the Thanksgiving vacation week. Aminmansour pointed out that UIUC is the only university in the Big 10 that offers this holiday week. He encouraged everyone to participate at next Monday’s Public Hearing.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee B

EP.05.03, Proposal from the Colleges of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Applied Life Studies; Business; Education; and Engineering to establish a Leadership Minor  This proposal is still under consideration in the Subcommittee.

EP.05.08, Proposal from the College of LAS to discontinue the Science and Letters Curriculum in Finance  
Williamson suggested some minor changes; due to a management transition, the proposal sponsor indicated in the proposal has changed. It was also suggested that actual names should not be used in the proposal; individuals should be referred to by title only.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate with these changes.

EP.05.09, Proposal from the College of FAA, Department of Urban and Regional Planning to create a Minor in Urban Planning  
Francis noted that she still had questions regarding hours of coursework; the proposal has been tabled.
Subcommittee C
EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit”  The subcommittee is still waiting for a response from the A & A Deans.

EP.05.11, Proposal from the College of LAS & Department of Statistics for revised degree requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Statistics  Geil reported that the subcommittee had identified several concerns: the proposal’s justification was not indicated, error in total coursework hours, and the proposal’s format needed some fine-tuning; the department forwarded these suggested changes this morning.

The proposal was unanimously approved as amended to forward to the Senate.

IV. New Business
101 Initiative – Ruth Watkins  Watkins gave an overview of the new 101 Initiative and pointed out that University 101 is not a course, but an initiative. Once a student has been accepted in the spring, they receive selected materials, are scheduled to visit campus for one day in the summer, and receive information on many recommended areas (these topics vary from unit to unit).

Review of the Campus Administrative Manual II-12, TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING SUPPLIES – Keith Marshall  On behalf of the Provost, Marshall asked the EPC to review this Campus Policy nine years after it was originally written. Aminmansour pointed out that this is not a Senate issue; we have been asked to provide advice to the Provost. He also noted that the Illini Union Bookstore is not a money-making establishment as all monies go back to Student Services. Lesht pointed out that the level of vendors is something to reckon with. The Chair related that a structured mechanism is needed to provide students’ needs; students are not required to purchase books at local bookstores as they may buy them on-line if they prefer. Rich thought it was great policy, but that it needed to be more specific. A motion was made that we support the existing policies and procedures with recommended editorial changes.

This recommendation was unanimously approved; the Chair will write a letter to the Provost in support of this position.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A
EP.05.13, Proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine to effect a departmental name change from the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology to the Department of Pathobiology  The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.16, Two Proposals from the College of LAS – one to rename the Department of Cell and Structural Biology to the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology, and the other to change the name of the Ph.D. degree in Cell and Structural Biology to Cell and Development Biology  After a short discussion, the two proposals were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B
EP.05.18, Proposal from the College of ACES for a curricular revision that would combine two majors in the Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Economics (also includes transfer of 8 concentrations from the old majors to the new major, the creation of one new concentration, the revision of one concentration, and the renaming of one concentration)  The subcommittee is requesting a departmental letter in support of these revisions; the proposal is presently tabled.

EP.05.17, Proposal from the College of LAS for the Creation of an American Indian Studies Program  Francis reported that the subcommittee needs clarification of this program. Marshall pointed out that they are creating an academic entity on campus; this is the first step in academic program studies such as Afro-American Studies, Asian American Studies, Latino Studies, etc.

Subcommittee C
EP.05.14, Proposal from the College of FAA to create a Minor in Architecture  Zych thought the Statement for the Catalog should be more explicit; also under requirements on first page, it should be changed to a minimum of 20 hours. Geil will notify the department of these suggested changes.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as amended.
EP.05.19, Proposal from the UIUC College of VMED & the UIC School of Public Health for a Joint Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) & Masters of Public Health (MPH) Program  Mintel thought the proposal to be intellectually solid.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

V. Pending Items

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues  Aminmansour gave a brief overview of the current policy explaining that midterm grades are required for all freshmen as stipulated in Rule 69C of the Code.  Apparently the new Banner System does not have the capacity to send midterm grades to select students; it is either all students or none at all. The committee held a short discussion of this issue.  Rich thought distributing midterm grades for freshmen was a good idea, especially good for advising.  Chapman-Novakofski agreed with Rich; she also thought if midterm grades were sent to all students that would be even better.  A motion was made that the committee support changing the midterm grade policy to include all first semester students (this would include freshman and transfer students).  Harwood will take this sentiment to the next meeting of the A & A Deans.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Approved as amended.