A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:15 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 31, 2005

The approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2005 has been delayed until the next meeting.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour encouraged members to attend today’s Public Hearing on the Academic Calendar and to participate in the discussions. He noted that while the EPC is not required to hold a public hearing on this issue, we do value the opinions of students and faculty across campus as the Calendar should serve in the best interest of the campus.

On a serious note, the Chair announced that Jesse Dela, Interim Provost, had suffered a heart attack late yesterday and asked everyone to pray for his speedy recovery.

III. Old Business

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   The consensus of the subcommittee is that the establishment of a Leadership minor is highly worthwhile; however, the program presented does not meet the requirement for minors as set forth in the Campus Guidelines of 4/27/1998 (EP.97.18), which states that a minor “should constitute a coherent program of study requiring some depth in the subject….” Francis expressed concerns that students could complete the minor without any unifying theme; without explicit restrictions, students could easily “double dip” to fulfill requirements. It was also not clear why other courses were not included (e.g., leadership courses in Military Science). She pointed out that several of the courses, especially in Business and in LAS, are known to be difficult or impossible for non-majors to access. The subcommittee also thought it may be impossible to maintain group cohesiveness in this minor, and therefore suggested that each College offer its own Leadership minor, which would be open to students from all colleges but which would focus on the leadership elements most important to the disciplines within the host college. Either separate or unified introductory and capstone course could be designed for such minors. The advantages to college-based minors include: (a) A smaller selection of courses to which advisors can direct students, and therefore the possibility of more organized options, such as a list of core courses augmented by electives. (b) Greater control over access to the necessary courses. (c) A greater likelihood that students in the minor will form a cohort, since they share an interest in similar aspects of leadership and take more courses together. It was suggested that a faculty steering committee be appointed to ensure the continuing integrity of the program(s) once the founders relinquish their guidance. Kirby Barrick gave an overview of the proposal and replied to the concerns raised by the subcommittee. The subcommittee will follow-up with Barrick on this proposal; the EPC will discuss this proposal further in the near future.

EP.05.08, Proposal from the College of LAS to discontinue the Science and Letters Curriculum in Finance This proposal was previously approved by the full EPC subject to revisions to be requested from the sponsoring department.
EP.05.09, Proposal from the College of FAA, Department of Urban and Regional Planning to create a Minor in Urban Planning  Francis reported that the subcommittee is suggesting clarifications related to CORE COURSES and revision to the “Statement for the Catalog” so that it includes a list of the required and elective courses for the minor.

The proposal was unanimously approved with suggested modifications.

IV. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.05.20, Proposal from the College of Engineering to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in Computer Science  Goldberg reported that this proposal is revising the Undergraduate Curriculum in Computer Science to add a new set of core courses and a broad set of flexibility. Kamin noted that these changes would give students stronger fundamentals and more flexibility to a higher level. Goldberg suggested that the subcommittee meet with Professors Kamin and Herzog to discuss the proposal further. Peterson pointed out that as a student in Computer Science, he would like to be included in these discussions.

V. Old Business, Continued

Subcommittee B

EP.05.17, Proposal from the College of LAS for the Creation of an American Indian Studies Program  Francis said she and the subcommittee are basically puzzled by this proposal and are asking for more information from the department. This should include such items as the four part section on Budgetary and Staff Implications described in the guidelines for such proposals. It would also be helpful to obtain a copy of the memo from Provost Herman noted in the current section on Budgetary and Staff Implications. Some specific questions are: (1) Has the Native American House Advisory Committee been formally approved by the Dean? (2) What is the administrative title of Professor Pillow who signed the Department/Unit Head clearance line? (3) What is the American Indian Studies unit in which Debbie Reese is an Assistant Professor? (4) What is the purpose of the Appendix? Francis will meet with Watkins regarding input from the Provost’s office and Professor Pillow.

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)  Francis, on behalf of the subcommittee, suggested some technical changes, and pointed out that there is no Statement for the Bulletin. She will refer these discrepancies to the department.

Subcommittee C

EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit”  Geil reported that this issue has been reviewed by the A & A Deans and will be discussed by the A Deans later in the week.

VI. Pending Items

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues  Harwood reported that this issue is presently being reviewed by the A Deans.

Mintel shared his concerns regarding students’ difficulty in acquiring textbooks due to expense.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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