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 Meetings of January 31, and February 7, 2005

In the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2005, under Item V, Pending Items, the last sentence should read: “Harwood will take this sentiment to the next meeting of the A Deans.” In the Minutes of February 7, 2005, under Item III, EP.05.03, it should be noted that the subcommittee was to follow-up with Kirby Barrick on this proposal. Under Item IV, typographical errors were noted. The Minutes of both meetings were approved as amended.

II Remarks of the Chair

The Chair announced that a Public Hearing on the proposed Engineering reorganization will be held on Wednesday, March 16 from 4-6:00 p.m. in room 100 of the Materials Science Building; he encouraged everyone to attend. The Provost’s Office has assured him that this proposal has been approved and will be forwarded to the EPC in the near future.

Aminmansour reminded members that the second half of the meeting has been set aside to discuss the proposed changes to the Guidelines for the Academic Calendar with the Task Group. He has shared these changes with several areas on campus in an effort to determine whether or not any ramifications might occur if these changes were to be approved. Also, copies of his letter of response to Professor Jeremiah Sullivan, Head of the Department of Physics, on this issue were distributed at the door.

III. New Business

EP.05.21, Guidelines on Graduate Concentrations  This issue is to be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Old Business

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A

EP.05.20, Proposal from the College of Engineering to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in Computer Science  After a short discussion, this proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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  Francis reported that the Subcommittee (minutes distributed) had met recently with Kirby Barrick; she asked the EPC to review the minutes. Barrick would like to see this proposal go to the Senate in a timely manner, hopefully before the committee membership changes; he is presently revising the proposal. Williamson thought the major problem was the fact that it is a multi-college minor. Aminmansour asked that the members report any major issues to Francis as everyone deserves credit for the process.
EP.05.17, Proposal from the College of LAS for the Creation of an American Indian Studies Program  
Francis reported that she is meeting on Wednesday with Professor Wanda Pillow (Director, Native American House), 
Ruth Watkins and Abbas Aminmansour to discuss this proposal.

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)  
Rich had previous concerns regarding a reference on page 2, item 6, “A new 
concentration will be launched, Public Policy and Law.” He has since discussed this issue with Nina Tarr, also 
in the College of Law, and agreed there should not be any ill effects. This proposal is still under consideration.

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 and approved by both the A Deans and the A & A Deans. Harwood 
explained that each individual college could experience different ramifications. The committee members 
discussed the latest revisions (handout) and thought version 2 to be the most workable. When a question arose 
as to how these proposed changes came about, Harwood said that Academic Outreach had expressed concerns 
that students taking continuing education courses may or may not receive credit for them. Poehls mentioned 
that students often pay extra to take an online or evening course and later find out that it did not count towards 
their degree; she felt that this needs to be clarified to the students. Francis expressed her concerns regarding the 
need for resident requirements. The Chair explained that this proposal will eventually be forwarded to the 
Conference on Conduct Governance (CCG) for approval before it is brought before the Senate. This issue was 
referred back to the Subcommittee; Alice Poehls will join Subcommittee C in its discussions.

Other Old Business:

Guidelines for the Academic Calendar

Chair Aminmansour asked for introductions around the table and pointed out those in attendance serving on the 
Task Force Group for the Academic Calendar. (Membership includes Abbas Aminmansour, Hassen Al-
Shawaf, Karen Carney, Keith Marshall, Dick Mintel, H. F. Williamson, all from EPC; Jack Collins, Director of 
Housing; Robert Damrau, Senate Clerk; Michael Grossman, Professor of Genetics & Animal Sciences, Senate 
Executive Committee Chair; Lawrence Mann, Associate Chancellor; Mike McCulley, Associate Deans’ 
Committee; William Riley, Dean of Students; and Ryan Ruzic, student Senate.) Aminmansour pointed out that 
the revisions refer to the guidelines for fall semester only. Proposed revisions include starting the semester on a 
Monday; however, that doesn’t mean that the semester would start 2-days early. The semester would end on a 
Wednesday; Reading Day would fall on a Thursday and there would be no exams on the weekend. The 
Thanksgiving break week would be split up to accommodate a fall break in October, the 7th or 8th week into the 
semester in an effort to ease student stress. Mintel and Peterson distributed copies of their proposed 
Guidelines for the Academic Calendar. Mintel walked members through the handout and explained that in 
years where Labor Day falls on September 1-4, the fall semester would begin on the Tuesday after Labor Day, 
giving students another whole week of gainful summer employment before the start of school. The committee 
members discussed both versions and expressed preferences and concerns; several wanted to maintain the 
present full week of Thanksgiving break.

V. Pending Items

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues  
Harwood reported that this issue has been reviewed by the A Deans and they 
have agreed that the Campus should stay in compliance with the freshman mid-term grading system.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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