Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, March 14, 2005

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Hassen Al-Shawaf, Karen Carney (ex officio), Derek Chan, Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Thomas Conry, Bettina M. Francis, Phillip Geil, Joseph Goldberg, Eve Harwood (ex officio), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Dick Mintel, Dan Peterson, Alice Poehls (ex officio designee), Bob Rich, Jerry Talton, Nina Tarr, Ruth V. Watkins (ex officio designee), Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Matthew Ando, Michele Crockett, Keith Marshall (observer), Hobe Scholz, H. F. Williamson

Guests: Lucy Rich, Wanda Pillow (Director, Native American House)

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 February 28, 2005

Under Item IV, Subcommittee B, it should reflect that Kirby Barrick is presently revising the Leadership proposal. Under Item IV, Guidelines for the Academic Calendar, the next to the last sentence should read: “Mintel walked members through the handout and explained that in years where Labor Day falls on September 1-4, classes would begin on the Tuesday after Labor Day.” Item V should read: “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.” The Minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2005 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair reminded committee members that the Public Hearing on the proposed Engineering reorganization (EP.05.22) would 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 committee will discuss this proposal at its meeting on April 4.

III. Old Business

Guidelines for the Academic Calendar  Chair Aminmansour noted he is still waiting for information from the Dean of Students. He also thought there were some other items on the agenda that were more time-sensitive that he would like to discuss today. Conry said he would like to see an orderly debate on each of the key issues of the Academic Calendar as he thought that while everyone is not in agreement on the proposal as a whole, there are elements that they might want to see implemented.

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues

Midterm grades are required for all freshmen as stipulated in Rule 69C of the Code. (They are not entered on the student's permanent University record.) After a short discussion, the requirement that midterm grades be required for all freshmen as stipulated in Rule 69C of the Code was approved; there was one abstention. The recommendation is to support the policy as written; the template will forward grades to first-time students.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee B

EP.05.17, Proposal from the College of LAS for the Creation of an American Indian Studies Program  The Chair introduced Professor Wanda Pillow, Director of Native American House and sponsor of this proposal. Francis gave a brief synopsis saying that the Subcommittee did not recommend forwarding the proposal to the Senate as it presently stands. The committee members discussed concerns regarding the six faculty positions that have been promised. Watkins pointed out that we need to keep a developmental perspective of departmental programs; they are interdisciplinary and not offering majors at this point. There’s been a strong precedent for establishing programs that have not necessarily come to the attention of the EPC. It was noted that the committee must look at the proposal’s academic merits and not administrative issues dealing with faculty and tenure. Pillow provided some background information about herself saying she had spent 7-years in Women’s and Latino Studies and that this proposal has been in the works since she arrived. In an effort to
ease faculty hiring concerns, she reported that a new faculty member had been hired for fall semester; internationally renowned, this individual will be 50-percent in the English Department and 50-percent in Native American Studies. This proposal has been tabled.

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 reported that the subcommittee has requested some technical changes on this proposal and is waiting for a response from the sponsor.

IV. New Business

EP.05.21, Guidelines on Graduate Concentrations Carney gave a brief overview of proposal EP.05.21 and answered Zych’s concerns of any possible effects on teacher certification in graduate programs. She explained that there will be many graduate concentrations being considered in the future; the purpose of these guidelines is to inform the EPC.

The Guidelines were unanimously approved with minor modifications to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A

EP.05.23, Proposal from the College of Engineering for a Minor in Materials Science and Engineering After a short discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.24, Proposal from International Programs and Studies for the European Union Center to be granted status as a Center Carney pointed out that a Center is defined by its funding source. The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.05.22, Proposal from the College of Engineering to Transfer the Industrial Engineering Program from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to the Department of General Engineering and Rename the Two Departments This proposal was just received and will be discussed after the Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 16.

V. Pending Items

EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit” (Subcommittee C with the addition of Lucy Rich and Alice Poehls) Geil reported that the subcommittee is still waiting for replies to some inquiries.

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 review; the subcommittee is waiting for revisions from Kirby Barrick.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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