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 March 14 and March 28, 2005

The Minutes of the meetings of March 14 and March 28, 2005 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair noted that the second half of the meeting had been set aside for discussion of 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. He asked members to mark their calendar for Monday, April 18 at 1:10 p.m., 232 English Building, to continue discussion on the Guidelines for the Academic Calendar; several guests have been invited to join the discussion and share their expertise.

III. Old Business

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 being reviewed by the subcommittee.

EP.05.17, Proposal from the College of LAS for the Creation of an American Indian Studies Program

The Chair reported that he had met recently with Ruth Watkins, Bob Damrau and Michael Grossman to discuss establishing new programs, particularly in regard to hiring and tenure issues. Watkins will write a letter assuring the committee that different procedures will be followed in the future when establishing these types of programs. Aminmansour read an e-mail he had received just before noon from Ruth Watkins indicating that she would be late to today’s meeting; however, if she were here, she would want to assure the committee that Interim Chancellor Herman and Acting Provost Delia are aware of the committee’s concerns, understand the issues involved, and welcome input from the EPC on key issues. In addition, both Chancellor Herman and Provost Delia welcome the opportunity to discuss the current status of campus ethnic studies programs and their developmental trajectory, as well as the aspects of campus governance that should be involved as proposals move forward. She anticipates that the Chancellor and Provost will provide a written memo to the committee that addresses some of the issues raised thus far, and any additional issues that come up in today’s discussion. Ethnic studies programs play a vital role on our campus, and she is convinced that the Chancellor, Provost and the EPC share a commitment to strengthening the well being and continued development of these units. She indicated that she hopes that it will be possible for the EPC to move forward with the American Indian Studies program proposal, while at the same time engaging in discussion with the Chancellor and Provost about the broader issues involved.

The members discussed other ways to approach this issue. Zych thought the committee to be at an impasse and suggested the proposal be approved and forwarded to the Senate for discussion. Some shared concerns
regarding promotion lines in interdisciplinary departments and thought them to be problematic. Goldberg made a motion that the proposal be approved with the understanding that the University would work to resolve the faculty issues created by the establishment of these Programs.

The proposal was approved as stated. (There were 4 Yes votes; 2 votes against; and 2 abstentions.)

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) It was noted that a reference to Law was made in the proposal; Francis will contact the Dean of the College of Law for clearance. When a question arose as to why the word Law jumps off the page when reviewing proposals; Mintel thought Law and Medicine were definite professional connotations and it was a matter of courtesy to contact these colleges for approval.

IV. New Business

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A

EP.05.26, Proposal from the College of ENGR to change the names of the Graduate Degrees in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

EP.05.27, Proposal from the College of LASS to rename and revise the Interdisciplinary Minor in Russian and East European Studies

EP.05.28, Proposal from the College of LAS to rename and revise the Science and Letters Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies

As these proposals were just received in today’s meeting packet, Subcommittee A will review and report back to the full committee at the next meeting.

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 Geil reported that the subcommittee had not taken an actual stand on this issue; however, he shared a list of questions based on some responses he had received.

Educational questions:

1. What is the history and prediction of the number of IE students as part of ME? Will it be a viable degree program in several years in terms of both students and faculty in either ME or GE?
2. How will the IE undergraduate program benefit from the transfer? How will the GE program benefit?
3. How do the undergraduate curricular visions of IE and GE differ, particularly with respect to the presumed retained IE degree?
4. If IE stays in ME, what does ME propose, within current constraints, to insure its viability?
5. If only 3 faculty (or less) move, how will staffing of current course requirements be met? If ME retained IE faculty, who determines teaching schedule and load?
6. At graduate level, what happens to current IE grad students; what department will they be in and what degree will they get if their advisor either does or does not move? What will be course, quality and preliminary requirements, and who will determine?
7. How will IE curriculum and changes therein be determined in new department?
8. How will IE course and teaching schedules be determined if transfer occurs?

Mintel thought the proposal was very practical; however, he noted there was a lot of opposition at the Public Hearing and found it to be almost as contentious as the recent proposal from ALS to merge the Departments of Community Health and Kinesiology. From his perspective, things have changed in industry; therefore, he thought the way we prepare our students must change.

Conry said he had served as Head of the Department of General Engineering from 1987 through 1998 and thought the key issue of this proposal was stewardship. Dean Daniel gave an overview of the proposal’s intention and thought the departments should have been merged twenty years ago. He noted that there is no
peer group for general engineering in the world as the University produces 99 percent of general engineering graduates.

Ferreira gave an overview from the perspective of industrial engineering; their students study how to establish the core of management, how to run large complex systems, workload capacity, synchronizing supply chains, etc. He did not think restructuring was in the best interest of the Industrial Engineering Department unless changes were made in Phase development.

Spong said the number one reason for this proposal was for rankings and to create a peer group for general engineering. When the Chair asked Ferreira for specifics in Phase development, his response was to build up the IE core and to create a leadership that would push the department in the right direction. Goldberg pointed out that with the current decrease in funding, mergers and acquisitions are inevitable and that we must take a stand.

EP.05.25, Proposal from the College of Education for the addition of CI 199: Orientation to Education Seminar as a requirement for graduation to each of the undergraduate degree programs in the College of Education This proposal was just recently received; therefore, will be discussed at a later date.

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) The Subcommittee is still waiting for replies to inquiries.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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