Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, April 11, 2005

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Hassen Al-Shawaf, Matthew Ando, Karen Carney (ex officio), Derek Chan, Thomas Conry, Bettina M. Francis, Phillip Geil, Joseph Goldberg, Eve Harwood (ex officio), Keith Marshall (observer), Dick Mintel, Nina Tarr, Ruth V. Watkins (ex officio designee), H. F. Williamson, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Michele Crockett, Faye Lesht (ex officio), Dan Peterson, Alice Poehls (ex officio designee), Bob Rich, Hobe Scholz, Jerry Talton

Guests: Harry Hilton, Emeritus, Aero & Astro Engineering; Sheldon Jacobsen, Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering; Udatta Palekar, Chair of the Advisory Committee, Associate Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering; Henrique Reis, General Engineering, Chair of the Advisory Committee; Mark Spong, Interim Head, General Engineering

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 April 4, 2005

The Minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2005 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair announced that visitors would be joining us at 2:00 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. Visitors include the Chairs of the Advisory Committees from the two departments involved, Udatta Palekar and Henrique Reis, and also Harry Hilton, who has concerns regarding the process of this review. Aminmansour also reminded members that a meeting will be held a week from today, Monday, April 18, devoted exclusively to discussion of the Guidelines for the Academic Calendar.

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 Francis reported that this proposal has changed drastically since it was first received. A short discussion was held; when a question arose as to whether or not the EPC should request new letters from the colleges represented, Marshall suggested that it be reviewed again on its merits. The Subcommittee will review again before asking for letters.

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 department had made the requested changes; she recommended it for approval. She noted that while a previous reference had been made to the use of the word law, she had contacted the Dean of the College of Law for clearance but had not received a reply. Zych made a motion that the proposal be approved on the condition that it has approval of the College of Law. Francis is to notify the College of Law, Heidi Hurd, and Charles Tabb, and inform them that unless we have heard from you by a certain date, we will assume that this proposal has your approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Clarification was requested as to the use of certain terminology and whether or not it should be required that the EPC verify its use with the college involved. Mintel thought it was a common courtesy to do so. Tarr made a motion: “If a unit (department, unit, college or program) is using the name of another discipline in the title of a major or minor, they must give the other discipline notice and an opportunity to be heard.” Marshall suggested that this phraseology be included in the set of guidelines for proposals, as he did not want to see it get lost.

Tarr’s motion was unanimously approved.
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  Goldberg made a recommendation on behalf of Subcommittee A that this proposal be approved.

After a short discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.27, Proposal from the College of LAS to rename and revise the Interdisciplinary Minor in Russian and East European Studies  During a short discussion, questions arose as to the Statement for the Bulletin; also, the proposal infers that the student will be required to take three semesters of language, making for only 6-8 hours. The department will be asked to clean up the language.

EP.05.28, Proposal from the College of LAS to rename and revise the Science and Letters Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies  It was pointed out that the language in this proposal is just as confusing as the one prior.  Ando noted that this proposal needs some clarification, as it does not provide the same information that one might glean from looking at the Statement from the Bulletin.  The subcommittee will ask the department to revise and resubmit.  This proposal has been tabled.

Subcommittee C

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  It was noted that there is no course description for the course they are adding; however, after a short discussion the proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.21, Guidelines on Graduate Concentrations  This issue had previously been approved to forward to the Senate at our meeting on March 14, 2005 pending revisions by Karen Carney.  Questions have since arose as to whether to provide these guidelines to the Senate as an action item or as an information item.  Also, does EPC want to give the authority to make these decisions to the Graduate College, especially when concentrations will soon be appearing on the students’ transcript?  Geil said that he did not have a problem with it as long as the Graduate College was consistent.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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  The Chair said that since he had invited guests from Engineering to join in on the discussion of this issue, he thought it would be good for both members and guests to introduce themselves.  Harry Hilton shared his concerns regarding the process of this review pointing out that historically the College of Engineering has always asked faculty for a vote on important issues and he thought that they had dropped the ball on this one.  Mintel read from a section of the University Statutes that notes that the transfer of one department into another does not require a faculty vote.  Hilton saw the EPC as guardian for the Senate and if there is a violation, it would be the Committee’s duty to inform the proposer.  The committee members discussed whether or not they thought the proper procedures had been followed.  Reis declared that he was fundamentally against this proposal; he felt that due process had been violated when the College failed to contact faculty involved.  Spong asked Reis to evaluate the proposal on its merit.  Marshall thought the proposal’s guidelines had been set up in the long-term best interest of the faculty and was educational sound.

The Chair noted that discussion will continue and a vote will be taken at a later meeting (April 25).

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.

Guidelines for the Academic Calendar  The EPC will discuss this item on April 18.

VI. Adjournment

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