Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, September 13, 2004  

Minutes

Present:  Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Hassen Al-Shawaf, Matthew Ando, Loren Bode, Alan M. Bolind,  
Karen Carney (ex officio), Derek Chan, Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Michele Crockett, Bettina  
M. Francis, Joseph Goldberg, Eve Harwood (ex officio), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Keith Marshall  
(observer), Dick Mintel, Alice Poehls (ex officio designee), Nina Tarr, Ruth V. Watkins (ex  
oficio designee), H. F. Williamson, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent:  German Bollero, Dan Peterson, Laura Tyler

Guests:  Kirby Barrick (Associate Dean of ACES), Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko (Head, Kinesiology), Tanya  
Gallagher (Dean of ALS), Phillip Geil, Robert Graves (Head of Theatre Department), Lucy  
Rich, Mary Ramsbottom (Associate Dean of LAS), Ryan Ruzic, Guy Snyder (Lecturer,  
Community Health)

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 Anminmansour presiding.

I. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, May 3 and May 7, 2004

The minutes of the meetings of April 12, and May 7, 2004 were approved as written. In the minutes  
of May 3, 2004 under Item V, EP.04.38, Proposal from the College of ALS to Merge the Department  
of Community Health and the Department of Kinesiology, should be deleted as it was discussed  
under Item III. The minutes of May 3 were approved as amended.

III. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair announced that he has set up a Committee Web site in order that interested parties may  
track proposals currently under review by the committee; this also includes links to other pages in the  
interest of the committee. He asked that if anyone had any changes to incorporate to please contact  
him. Also, the Provost’s Office has recently begun to send proposals to the Educational Policy  
Committee electronically. After that remark, he inquired if receiving electronic copies of new  
proposals was sufficient for committee members or if they would prefer to have hard copies. With a  
show of hands the majority of the committee chose to receive paper copies.

Aminmansour reported that he has appointed an Academic Calendar Task Group for review of the  
academic calendar including revisiting the rule redefining the first day of class, Wednesday, as a  
Monday; review of the Fall Break; and possible changes to the fall Reading Day.

The Chair referred to the latest NCAA Report, its report of the “Chief” issue and its effect on our  
campus. He had met with the Chancellor recently as the member of a group of faculty members to  
study the impact of this issue.

IV. Old Business

EP.04.38, Proposal from ALS to Merge the Department of Community Health and the Department of  
Kinesiology  Chair Aminmansour brought the committee up to date on previous discussion regarding  
EP.04.38, Proposal to merge the departments of Community Health and Kinesiology in the College of  
Applied Life Studies. A much publicized Public Hearing was held on April 28, 2004. The EPC offered  
complete confidentiality to those who wished to make comments; only EPC members viewed the  
information contained in two booklets composed of 160-pages. The Committee had asked the College  
to make clarifications to some questions that had been raised; these questions have since been  
answered in the revisions distributed at the door. The proposal was approved last semester with the  
condition that it would be reviewed again this semester as it will be sent to the Senate under this  
committee’s membership. The Chair noted that the proposal contains attachments that were not  
distributed but will be forwarded via e-mail.  Bolind thanked the Dean of LAS and the Committee Chair
for working on this proposal during the summer. Aminmansour noted that there are copies of the remarks that were mentioned above available in the Senate Office for those new members who would like to review the information. Our committee will continue discussions on this issue on October 4.

V. New Business

EP.04.31, Section Specific Course Titles  After a short discussion, the committee members made some minor editorial revisions. Proposal EP.04.31 was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues  It has been customary for UIUC to distribute mid-semester grades to all freshmen; however, the new Banner System only has the capabilities to send grades to all students on campus. The Chair suggested that the committee request information from the Provost’s Office in order that we have a better perspective of this issue. Marshall questioned whether mid-term grades really accomplish what is intended and if we want the Provost’s Office spending money to correct the Banner Program. Tarr felt that in general, students do not get enough feedback related to grades as it is, but other members questioned if mid-term grades were useful. Ramsbottom noted that the Deans have distributed a letter encouraging mid-term grades for freshmen to be used in a pro-active way. In LAS, advisers review mid-term grades in an effort to assist freshmen. Al-Shawaf asked if there was any way to boost the relevance of mid-term grades as he had appreciated receiving them when he was a freshman. Aminmansour suggested that the Committee wait to hear from the A and A Deans until we again revisit this issue.

EP.05.07, Denoting Concentrations on Transcript  The new Banner System does allow for denoting concentrations on transcripts; there are many departments that have had concentrations approved. Marshall thought it would benefit the students to provide this service. Poehls pointed out that this is an urgent issue with students.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Review of Format Requirements for Proposals to Educational Policy and IBHE  The IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) has its own format for the submission of proposals requiring specific details. The members discussed whether or not proposals submitted to the EPC should be in the same format as required by the IBHE. After a short discussion a motion was made and seconded to give the sponsor the option to submit proposal in either EPC or IBHE format.

The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Subcommittees

Subcommittee B

EP.04.43, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in Theatre  Dr. Robert Graves reported that there have been hundreds of little changes in the Department of Theatre and this proposal reflects these changes. He gave an overview of the proposal saying that it shows an increase in course hours, clarifies the concentrations, etc. Zych remarked that he thought it was an excellent proposal.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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  Barrick stressed the importance of helping young people develop leadership skills and answered several questions that the committee members had regarding the proposal. Aminmansour stressed the importance of looking at the financial impact of this proposal. Mintel thought the proposal carries persuasive endorsements and saw it as a “cafeteria” approach to education. Watkins reported that there is a lot of student and faculty interest in this proposal; she thought that any suggestions to Dean Barrick would be helpful. Geil said he would like to see course descriptions. A motion was made and seconded to table this issue until the next meeting

The proposals listed below were not discussed.

EP.04.33, Proposal from the College of Applied Life Studies to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in the Department of Leisure Studies

EP.04.42, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Undergraduate Art History Curriculum
Subcommittee A

EP.04.41, Proposal from the College of ALS to create a Concentration in Athletic Training Education in the Undergraduate Kinesiology Curriculum  Bode reported that he had contacted Jerry Bell for clarification of some terminology. A motion was made and seconded that the proposal be approved with the condition that a list of courses be added to the Programs of Study catalog.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate conditional on receipt of the list of courses.

The proposals listed below were not discussed.

EP.05.01, Proposal from the College of LAS to Rename the Interdisciplinary Minor in Afro-American Studies to the Interdisciplinary Minor in African American Studies

EP.05.02, Proposal from the College of LAS to Rename the Afro-American Studies & Research Program to the African American Studies & Research Program

EP.05.04, Proposal from the Graduate College to Eliminate the M.A. in the Teaching of German

Subcommittee C

The proposals listed below were not discussed.

EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit”

EP.04.44, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Foundation Program of All Art & Design Curricula

EP.05.05, Proposal from the College of LAS to Revise the Specialized Curriculum of the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

VII. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy