Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, September 20, 2004  

Minutes

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

Absent: German Bollero, Derek Chan, Dick Mintel, Laura Tyler, Ruth V. Watkins (ex officio designee)

Guests: Phillip Geil, Lucy Rich, Ryan Ruzic

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. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 13, 2004

The Chair reported that the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2004 will be distributed at the next meeting.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported that he has been advised by the Provost's Office that the Division of Rehabilitation Education Services is in the process of changing its name to Division of Disability Resources and Education Services. Marshall said that in many ways, this name more accurately reflects their current service mission. Since this is not an academic unit, it is not necessary to forward a proposal to the Senate in this regard, but the Provost thought it important that the EPC be notified of this change.

Aminmansour also mentioned that from time to time our committee is often in the need of additional information when reviewing proposals. He asked that members ask him or the Secretary to obtain any such information, as they would be more than happy to do so.

III. Old Business

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues

The Chair told the committee he would like to come to a relative conclusion on this issue and examine any budgetary implications. The Provost's Office has the authority and funding to initiate any changes. The Committee concluded it would be wise to ask the Provost to look into the issue further in order that we may make a more informed conclusion. He read a draft letter that would eventually be sent to the Provost and asked for any revisions. Apparently the new Banner system is not capable of sending mid-semester reports to freshman only. The members held a general discussion of the issue. Bode was not convinced that mid-term grades are needed or if they provide credible feedback. Chapman-Novakofsky thought that by not sending out mid-term grades, we could be harming our students. Tarr said it troubled her that we have too many students, too bad a system and thought it important to do something that is pedagogically sound.

Subcommittee A

EP.04.41, Proposal from the College of ALS to create a Concentration in Athletic Training Education in the Undergraduate Kinesiology Curriculum

This proposal was approved at the last meeting with Zych's suggestion that the department include a list of courses to the Program of Study Catalog. The Chair referred to the handout provided and asked if it meets the committee's request.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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

Bode reported that the subcommittee had no questions on these two proposals.

The proposals were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.
EP.05.04. Proposal from the Graduate College to Eliminate the M.A. in the Teaching of German
Bode reported that he thought the Graduate College had done its homework; therefore, he asked that
the proposal be approved to forward to the Senate.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B

EP.04.33. Proposal from the College of Applied Life Studies to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in the Department of Leisure Studies
The Committee discussed the proposal citing several minor technicalities; corrections needed in the Program of Study Catalog, discrepancy in credit hours, and clarification in non-western cultural studies.

The proposal was approved provided that the department makes several modifications.

EP.04.42. Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Undergraduate Art History Curriculum
Harwood distributed a revised copy of Curriculum in Art History for the Program of Study Catalog and explained the changes.

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
Lesht mentioned that she teaches a graduate course on leadership; she stressed the importance of teaching students about leadership and saw this proposal as a valid idea. The Chair reported that Kirby Barrick, Associate Dean for the College of ACES and creator of the proposal, was in the process of receiving new letters from each college addressing financial concerns. Harwood pointed out that students would be admitted into the program by their own college; and each college would advise its own students only.

Subcommittee C

EP.04.40. Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit”
Aminmansour explained that this is not officially a proposal and has been numbered for tracking purposes only. The EPC will report its findings back to the Conference on Conduct Governance. The members held a discussion of the issue. Ando thought it was fuzzy logic for what is a U of I degree without ever being on campus and that it would be inconceivable to see this at his previous institution. Goldberg said it greatly devalues the university experience and asked the members to not denigrate the value of this campus. Lesht asked if a person should be denied a degree merely because they are unable to come to campus. She thought perhaps students over 25-years old should be offered this program and that they be required to come to campus for long weekends. This issue has been referred back to the Subcommittee.

EP.04.44. Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Foundation Program of All Art & Design Curricula
Geil raised several questions: some titles are misnamed; ARTH 111 and ARTH 112 are required and not an option for Teacher Education Program only.

The proposal was unanimously approved as amended to forward to the Senate.

EP.05.05. Proposal from the College of LAS to Revise the Specialized Curriculum of the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
After a short discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

IV. New Business

None

V. Pending Items

EP.04.38. Proposal from ALS to Merge the Department of Community Health and the Department of Kinesiology
This proposal is scheduled for discussion on October 4, 2004.

VI. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy