The University is presently discussing establishing a University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC); this issue is in the early stages. The Senate Executive Committee meets today following this meeting at which time Chet Gardner, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Elliot Kaufman, Chair of University Senate Conference will address this issue. Aminmansour stated that he is a member of the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of UIGC initiative.

- The Chair of CCG (Conference on Conduct Governance), Mark Roszkowski, has asked if the EPC would be interested in discussing Code related items such as Professional/VME, residential requirements for JD degree, College of LAW Honors, etc. Williamson said he would be curious to know the history of this inquiry. Kuntz noted that she would want verification that the CCG has been notified by the colleges mentioned. Malmgren reported that as an ex officio member of CCG, she has observed that that committee often requests clarification on contacts for specific rules in the Code. Aminmansour noted that while CCG makes modifications to the Code, any educational policy in the Code changes must be approved by the Senate.

- The EPC’s recent extension of midterm grades for freshmen is listed on today’s agenda of the Senate Executive Committee; however, it has been suggested that this item be delayed until February 13th when Keith Marshall can give an informed presentation to the SEC.

- The eight faculty members of TAM (Theoretical and Applied Mechanics) have been contacted as to whether or not they wish to meet with the EPC to discuss the merging of the TAM and MIE (Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) departments (EP.06.16). Aminmansour suggested that we also invite the former TAM faculty members who have transferred to ME. After receiving encouragement from several Committee members, he said that he will pursue that.

III. Old Business

EP.06.16, Proposal from the College of Engineering to merge the Departments of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Renaming the Combined Department the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering. The Chair noted that he had forwarded Adesida’s response to the Committee’s questions on the TAM/MIE merger. Today’s meeting is the first since the Public Hearing was held December 7, 2005. Geil remarked that he had instigated the MATSE merge and felt this one was being handled in a completely different manner and he was concerned about the future of TAM. Adesida assured the members that this merger was being handled by the same means as was the transfer of Industrial Engineering to the Department of General Engineering.
Aminmansour stated that he believed appropriate process was followed by the College. He reminded the Committee that a Dean has the authority to submit such a proposal, that there had been extensive discussions at the College and department levels, and that a vote by the College faculty supported the proposal by a vote of 66 percent in favor and 34 percent against.

Ruth Watkins thought it important to consider what is in the long-term interest of the students, the long-term interest of the faculty, and long-term interest of scholarship and research; she found these to be a compelling argument for this merger. Francis thought that the last merger was used to justify this process and that faculty is willing to fight despite the fact they could lose anyway. She also thought that although the merge of Kinesiology and Community Health appears to be successful, she is not seeing the same reconciliation with this merger and questioned whether the EPC is merely a “rubber stamp.” Aminmansour pointed out that EPC is not a “rubber stamp,” that no decisions have been made, and that we are seriously considering this proposal based on its merits.

Sehitoglu alleged that the discipline of mechanics is not going away. As much as he understands the feelings of the TAM faculty members, they would need strength and finances to remain an independent unit, and that is realistically no longer possible. He pointed out that this merger has been under discussion for the last three years. Adesida thought TAM had a good history, but we can not be a slave to history as there have been many “hiccups” along the way. Berfield, a graduate student in TAM, sees TAM as a sliding scale of Mechanics and much more refined that MIE. He thought the department had been hurting for faculty members, but not for students; the cut of ten faculty members in the past ten years had been a result of the allocation of resources.

R. Watkins thought the issue of Kinesiology/Community Health was a good one to reflect on as it had been quite contentious in the beginning. She pointed out that although the departments of Kinesiology and Community Health have merged, they are still separate divisions and thought that some exceptional faculty hires have resulted. Watkins pointed out that the Department of Kinesiology had been both sympathetic and energetic and has embraced Community Health; she was confident Sehitoglu would provide the same nurturing.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.06.13, Proposal from the College of ACES for curricular revision to the Bachelor of Science Curriculum with a major in Agricultural and Environmental Communications and Education. Tappenden reminded members that last week she had circulated via e-mail the revisions to this proposal and noted there is no longer the flip-flop between option and concentration. Zych requested a definition of these terms. Aminmansour will forward e-mail that he distributed to the A Deans list serve on this issue.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B

EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit.” Kuntz thought these proposed changes to be beneficial to students. Zych had questions regarding DARS encoders; Rich assured him that these changes were actually easier to encode in DARS than the present rules in the Code. The members held a discussion and provided some minor revisions.

The revised proposal was approved to forward to the Senate. Geil will make the proposed revisions and forward to the Secretary; the Secretary will in turn forward a copy to Mark Roszkowski.

IV. New Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.06.21, Proposal from the college of LAS to establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society (Sciences & Letters Curriculum)

EP.06.27, Proposal from the Graduate College of establish a new graduate Minor in Balkan Studies. See EP.06.24.

EP.06.28, Proposal from the Graduate College to eliminate the graduate specialization in Biophysical Chemistry
EP.06.29, Proposal from the College of Education to establish graduate majors that correspond to the names of each six departments that currently offer programs leading to graduate degrees

Subcommittee B

EP.06.20, Proposal from the College of ACES for approval to drop the Minor in Fiber Science currently offered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Geil noted that the proposal contains a letter from the Forestry Department that was not relevant. Kuntz will ask that the proposal be resubmitted.

EP.06.22, Proposal from the College of LAS to revise the Environmental Chemistry Option

EP.06.24, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a new Graduate Minor in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies Kuntz noted that the cover letters for this proposal and EP.06.27 had been reversed.

EP.06.30, Proposal from the College of LAS for revisions of the Major in the Sciences and Letter Curriculum in East Asian Languages and Cultures

Subcommittee C

EP.06.23, Proposal from the College of LAS to establish an Interdisciplinary Minor in the Study of the Islamic World

EP.06.25, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the program leading to the Master of Social Work

EP.06.26, Proposal from the College of ENGR & the College of BUS to establish a joint graduate program leading to both the MS (or Ph.D.) with a Major in Material Science & Engineering, & a Master of Business Administration (MBA)

EP.06.31, Proposal from the College of LASS to establish a new M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology

V. Pending Items

Subcommittee A

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

Subcommittee B

EP.05.31, Proposal from the College of Business for Revision of the Curriculum for the Department of Business Administration

VI. Adjournment

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

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