Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, February 6, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Thomas Berfield, Loren Bode, Stephen Boppart, Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Joe Danavi, Bo Fernhall (ex officio), Phillip Geil, Melissa Kennedy, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), Lucy Rich, Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Jason Webber, H. F. Williamson, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Linda Beale, Karen Carney (ex officio), Michele Crockett, Bettina M. Francis, Joseph Goldberg, Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Amanda Palazzo, Kenneth Watkin

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

The minutes of the meeting of January 30 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair reported on the following:

- The Committee will meet next week with the faculty of TAM, Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, regarding the Proposal from the College of Engineering to merge the Departments of TAM and of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (EP.06.16). The week following, meeting scheduled for February 20, we will meet with former TAM faculty members who have now transferred to MIE.

- There are discussions taking place about another possible merger in another college; the chair has already received a stack of e-mails of concerns.

- Aminmansour read a letter addressed to both him and to the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee from the Provost asking for input on a proposed degree in NRES (Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences) to be offered at Oak Brook Center in Chicago. The committee members held a brief discussion of this issue; questions arose as to admissions criteria, faculty selection, whether or not this program would take seats from this campus, and concerns that we are getting closer to “farming” out degrees. Lesht said there was an opportunity to increase faculty lines through this program. It was suggested that we inform the Provost’s Office that we support this initiative. Struble injected that we accept this initiative as we understand its options.

After Kristi Kuntz arrived at the meeting, committee members shared their concerns. Chair Aminmansour asked the committee for a vote to go on record in endorsing a degree in NRES to be offered at Chicago’s Oak Brook Center as outlined in the memo from the Provost. The members of the EPC unanimously approved the proposal with no conditions attached.

III. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

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)  The proposal was thought to be well-prepared; however, concerns were expressed regarding the uncertainty in how extra expenses for the library, computer use, laboratory, equipment, etc. will be funded if the program expands to a point where additional funds are
needed. The College will be asked to forward a letter to the Chair clarifying how these future budgetary needs will be dealt with in case questions arise on the Senate floor.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.06.27, Proposal from the Graduate College of establish a new graduate Minor in Balkan Studies
Tappenden reported that the modest revisions that had been requested of the department have been received (distributed at the door). It was noted that the “Program of Study” page should be removed.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.06.28, Proposal from the Graduate College to eliminate the graduate specialization in Biophysical Chemistry
It was noted that there have not been any students in this program for several years.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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
Zych pointed out that the Masters Degree is in Curriculum & Instruction instead of Education. Bode noted that the majors do reflect specializations that currently exist. Geil questioned the need for “Programs of Study” statements for all degrees. The Chair asked Tappenden to contact the sponsor regarding these concerns.

Subcommittee B

EP.06.22, Proposal from the College of LAS to revise the Environmental Chemistry Option
There was a discussion of the proposal’s use of option versus concentration. Rich noted that a directive from the Provost’s Office to change option to concentration has not yet come down. A motion was made that this proposal be approved to forward to the Senate on the condition that the word option be changed to concentration; or that a letter from the College of LAS stating the change accompany the proposal.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate on this condition.

EP.06.24, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a new Graduate Minor in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies
The committee reviewed the recent revisions received from the department.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate with the condition that the “Program of Study” page be removed from the proposal.

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
An error was noted in the cover letter from the Provost’s Office. On page 3, Statement for Programs of Study, the minimum required major and supporting course work equates to 33-57 hours. It was suggested that this be changed to 37-57 hours. Geil will request these changes.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate with these revisions.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.23, Proposal from the College of LAS to establish an Interdisciplinary Minor in the Study of the Islamic World
Zych referred to page 3, Statement for the Catalog, and suggested that the word should be changed to must. (Additional courses chosen from the approved course list. The courses must come from at least two disciplines. At least six hours must be at the 300- or 400-level.)

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

EP.06.25, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the program leading to the Master of Social Work
Zych pointed out that the course work list for Social Work does not match the certification requirements. He also had questions regarding the Statement for the Bulletin. The Chair suggested we table discussion on this proposal until the next meeting.

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)
After a short discussion, some editorial changes were suggested.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as revised.
EP.06.31, Proposal from the College of LASS to establish a new M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology  Chapman-Novakofski referred to page 7, and raised some questions as to the minimum requirements for the Master of Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Discussion on this proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

V.  Pending Items (Waiting to hear from sponsors.)

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  Williamson reported that he had talked recently with Mark Roszkowski; apparently, the Department of Business Administration has a new faculty member who is presently reviewing this proposal.

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)  Kuntz explained that this proposal has been returned to the department.

VI.  Other Business and Adjournment

The Chair reported that at last week’s meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, Chet Gardner (Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Elliot Kaufman (Chair of the University Senates Conference) gave a presentation on the University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC). As a member of the UIGC Academic Affairs Subcommittee, he shared his concerns of lack of adequate faculty involvement on this issue as he is the only actual teaching faculty member serving. He added that Elliot Kaufman is the only faculty serving on the Steering Committee. Aminmansour announced that the SEC would be meeting with President Joe White following this meeting.

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

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