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 February 13, 2006 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair
Chair Aminmansour gave a brief update on the University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC) saying that the Senate Executive Committee had met recently with President Joe White who was very receptive; a summit will be held to discuss questions that were raised. He will provide more details at a later date.

III. Executive Session – Meeting with Former TAM Faculty
The EPC went into “Executive Session” for discussion with former TAM faculty regarding the merging of the Departments of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.

IV. Old Business

EP.06.21, Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS
Aminmansour noted that this proposal is slated to go before the Senate at today’s meeting scheduled for 3:10 p.m.; however, Wes Jarrell, Head of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, wanted to share his concerns. Professor Jarrell pointed out that there is a similar component in the College of ACES and he feared there was a potential for confusion with the College of LAS. He was also concerned that students viewing programs online might have problems cross-referencing. A motion was made and seconded that in light of Jarrell’s comments this proposal be pulled from today’s Senate agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

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
Refer to item III.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

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
Kuntz reported that after some conversations with the IBHE, the President’s Office is asking for further consideration of EP.06.29 before it heads to the Senate. In particular, there is concern about attempting to move Secondary, Elementary and Early Childhood Education into a single Curriculum and Instruction degree. The relevant parties will be meeting soon; therefore, this proposal is a pending item until further notice.
Subcommittee C

EP.06.25, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the program leading to the Master of Social Work and EP.06.31, Proposal from the College of LASS to establish a new M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology. The departments had not yet responded to the subcommittee’s questions on these proposals.

V. New Business

EP.06.32, Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218); letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference. Kuntz reported that she is still waiting for a response from the President’s Office on this proposal.

Bode referenced the recent changes in Math courses and reported that he had heard that incoming students are now required to enter the University with a higher level of mathematics and he questioned whether or not this requirement should have been discussed by the EPC. Chapman-Novakofski thought there should be a discussion of any possible ramifications of that decision. Williamson pointed out that math courses affect all students and all programs.

Struble inquired as to the next step in the review of the proposal to merge the Departments of TAM and MIE (EP.06.16). The Chair asked if it would be appropriate to talk with current ME faculty as the merger will have an effect on them also. Lesht shared her concerns saying that she felt that she does not necessarily have a sophisticated philosophy of the proposed merger.

VI. 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

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)

VII. Other Business and Adjournment

Chair Aminmansour announced that the next EPC meeting is scheduled for March 6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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