Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, March 6, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Linda Beale, Thomas Berfield, Loren Bode, Stephen Boppart, Karen Carney (ex officio), Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Michele Crockett, Bo Fernhall (ex officio), Phillip Geil, Joseph Goldberg, Stuart Karaffa, Melissa Kennedy, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Lucy Rich (observer), H. F. Williamson, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Joe Danavi, Bettina M. Francis, Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Kenneth Watkin, Jason Webber

Guests: Ilesanmi Adesida, Interim Dean of Engineering; Richard Holm, Assistant to the Dean, College of Engineering; Huseyin Sehitoglu, Head, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Ruth Watkins, Associate Provost

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 20, 2006 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported on the following:

- On March 5, he had forwarded a message from Mark Roszkowski regarding his Prefiled Resolution for the March 27 Senate meeting pertaining to the Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day and was soliciting the support of the Educational Policy Committee as a co-sponsor. He asked that the committee discuss this issue later in the meeting.

- Aminmansour announced that this Thursday there will be a Summit for all three campuses regarding the University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC). Also, Keith Marshall has organized a meeting for tomorrow for discussion on this issue at the campus level.

- A reference was made to Kristi Kuntz’s e-mail request to revise the Math requirement in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Although there was no opposition by committee members that this change is made administratively by the Provost’s Office, the chair has heard some concerns.

- In reference to EP.06.21, the Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS, and its recent withdrawal from the Senate agenda; apparently not all of the issues have been resolved. It is advisable that those concerned individuals be invited to discuss these issues at a future EPC meeting.

III. Old Business

EP.06.21, Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS  See Item II.

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

Geil distributed copies of a document he had prepared regarding the TAM-ME merger and asked that the information be regarded as confidential. He proceeded to go over its highlights pointing out that all faculty members that had transferred from TAM had done so because of internal disagreements and that the department has been in a state of internal disagreement for twenty years or more. Geil recommended that the merger be approved by the committee, although he did encourage some revisions.

Prior to the meeting, the Chair had forwarded the Committee’s concerns to Dean Adesida in order that he might address them at today’s meeting. Those areas in question are as follows:
• Is it possible for the Mechanics faculty to be included in the ME Department and still maintain their identity, control of finances, curriculum changes, etc.? An issue of particular interest is possible changes to the ME department bylaws.

• Is the College of Engineering in a position to add faculty lines to the current TAM Department in the absence of the proposed merger?

• What is the purpose of the advertisement by the ME Department for hiring lecturers to teach Mechanics courses?

Adesida asked the committee to look at this proposal very carefully and explained that while this process has been a very difficult journey, it has been a long-standing issue. He assured the committee that all endowments will be transferred and that the College is making every effort to accommodate the unforeseeable. Beale questioned why faculty members were permitted to transfer from TAM prior to finalization of the proposal. She thought this to be an important issue for the Senate in dealing with future mergers. Aminmansour pointed out the balance between Beale’s point and responding to the request from a faculty member to transfer and the possibility of losing that faculty member if request is not granted.

Aminmansour inquired about the advertisement placed by ME to hire lecturers to teach mechanics courses. Sehitoglu stated that his department had done so proactively to cover mechanics courses for a short period until permanent faculty can be hired to teach those courses replacing TAM faculty who have already left the university. He added that they had some accomplished people in mind for the position, including professors who may wish to join us temporarily for their sabbaticals.

In response to Williamson’s inquiry on the endowments, Adesida replied that the intent of the donors will be respected. Aminmansour was concerned as to what provisions were being made for students interested in taking TAM courses. Adesida said that it is the College of Engineering’s forte to teach engineering students and that they are not going to deny that. Sehitoglu reported that there is presently $24 million worth of endowments in ME with a much smaller amount in TAM; he assured the Committee that there will not be a distinction between faculty members after the merger.

Berfield asked that the Committee not vote on this issue today, as he had been under the impression that a vote would not be taken until later in the discussions. Crockett injected that she found Geil’s document very helpful, as she had been frustrated in reading the confidential bound document of “he said, she said.” Aminmansour remarked that it was very unfortunate that there had been some misconceptions and that it was very disturbing to hear that some students fear that some TAM courses may not be offered in the future. Marshall thought the best way to approach this proposal is by looking at what is in the best interest of this institution. The Chair reiterated Marshall’s stance saying we must look at what’s in the best interest of TAM, its students, and this institution. A motion was made and seconded to table the original motion to approve. Lesht suggested inquiry into possible procedures for absentee voting. Aminmansour said revisions must be made to the proposal to reflect the opinions of this group.

IV. New Business

EP.06.38, Prefiled Resolution for the March 27 Senate meeting pertaining to the Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day by Mark Roszkowski (Forwarded by e-mail 3/5/2006.) Lesht noted that while the spirit of this proposal is worthy, the wording is not necessarily the best; however, it is a legitimate concern and should be addressed. As it is important to make a statement, it is also important to maintain a good relationship with the area establishments. Kuntz reported that the Provost’s Office had received concerning reports from the staff of Foellinger Auditorium and Lincoln Hall who are still dealing with the impact. Williamson suggested the Committee refrain another week before making a decision on the Resolution to see what action the Campus administrators take. The Committee members shared concerns of campus underage drinking and its affects on academics. The Chair will share the Committee’s comments with Mark Roszkowski.

Request from Provost’s Office to revise the Math requirement in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Rich noted that this revision to the Math requirement does not affect any other college and presented a background to the proposed revisions.

EP.06.36, Proposal from the College of business to revise the undergraduate curriculum for the B.S. in Finance This proposal has been assigned to Subcommittee C for review.
EP.06.32, Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218); letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A

EP.06.33, Proposal from the College of Applied Life Studies to Terminate the Teacher Education Minor in Physical Education

Subcommittee B

EP.06.34, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the undergraduate curriculum in Art Education  Geil reported that despite questions on electives, he recommended the proposal be approved to forward to the Senate. He will request that the department forward revisions.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate pending revisions.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.35, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics  Aminmansour pointed out that this proposal requires both a college vote and public hearing. Although the College of LAS is very anxious to see this proposal approved by the Senate, April 10 is the last day that the Committee may approve any proposals for review by the Senate.

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

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.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)

Subcommittee C

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

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

VI. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy

Approved as amended.