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

Under Item III, Geil asked that the words “in tenu re” be omitted. The Sentence should read: “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.” The minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2006 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported that on March 9, he had attended a Summit for all three campuses regarding the University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC). He and another faculty member objected to UIGC being governed by a Board of Managers with no voting faculty members citing that the University is an educational institution first and could be sending the wrong message if there is not a balance between faculty members and business managers.

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 reported that he had met recently with members Crockett and Geil regarding TAM courses. Crockett reported that they did an item by item analysis on the projected class schedules if the TAM proposal does not go forward and also if merger is approved and that they were satisfied that the classes would be taught by degreed faculty. Geil reported they were in receipt of a letter of clarifications from Ilesanmi Adesida offering additional information on the proposal and relating that six faculty members had left TAM prior to Dean Daniels leaving the University and that the merger would offer broader opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students. The Committee members held a question and answer discussion with Dean Adesida. Francis shared concerns that damage has already been done to students and feared that new applications have plummeted. Chapman-Novakofski said she has found that graduate students will come to Campus to work with a particular faculty member. Boppart thought the proposal was in the best interest of TAM and that it was necessary to follow the trend and move on. Francis thought it was necessary to deal with the process of which has brought us to this point. Chapman-Novakofski thought perhaps that was a separate issue that needed to be discussed at another time. Aminmansour explained that it is not the charge of this Committee to send a political message; however, it is our responsibility to evaluate this proposal based on its merit. He pointed out that there appears to be no violation of the procedures. Watkin reminded members that the merging of the departments of Kinesiology and Community Health proved to be very successful and gave merging faculty a chance to blossom. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. (The vote was: Yes-8; No-6, Abstention-1; absent members-2; Chair did not vote.)

Chair Aminmansour thanked everyone for their honest and caring consideration. Members were asked to return all confidential binders pertaining to the TAM merger to the Secretary for shredding as soon as possible.
EP.06.21, Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS  This proposal will be discussed at the meeting scheduled for April 10.

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.)  When the SEC (Senate Executive Committee) reviewed this Prefiled Resolution at its meeting on March 6, Roszkowski agreed to the Committee’s recommendation to remove the steps listed at the bottom.  The Chair asked if the EPC wanted to co-sponsor this resolution now that these revisions have been made.  The members were in agreement that the Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day celebration is very disruptive.  Francis pointed out that there is still a law on the books from the 60’s whereby it is illegal to interrupt classroom teaching. Danavi stated that he enjoyed participating in the event and considers it a holiday. Crockett sees the day as exploitive of young people.  A motion was made and seconded to support this proposal as it is forwarded to the Senate.

The proposal was approved to forward to the Senate.  (The vote was:  Yes-14, No-1.)

IV. New Business

EP.06.32, Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218); letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference

EP.06.39, Proposal from the College of Applied Life Studies to rename the college to the College of Applied Health Sciences  Aminmansour reported that this proposal had previously been forwarded by electronic copy pointing out that a Public Hearing is not required. After a short discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the proposal be approved to forward to the Senate.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Beale reported that the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, of which she is Chair, is forwarding the clarification of a Standing Rule for a first reading at the March meeting of the Senate. She explained that this has come about as the result of administrative approval of a number of programs in the past. Apparently there are thirty faculty members who are presently not affiliated with approved units (e.g. Religious Studies, Women’s Studies). In establishing these units, administrators did not go thru the proper Senate approval process. Aminmansour thanked Linda and her committee for handling this issue as it had begun here about a year ago with the review of the American Indian Studies Program.

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.06.37, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Major in the Science and Letters Curriculum for Anthropology

Subcommittee C

EP.06.35, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics

EP.06.36, Proposal from the College of business to revise the undergraduate curriculum for the B.S. in Finance

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.