Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, April 17, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Thomas Berfield, Stephen Boppart, Karen Carney (ex officio), Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Michele Crockett, Bo Fernhall (ex officio), Bettina M. Francis, Phillip Geil, Joseph Goldberg, Stuart Karaffa, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Lucy Rich (observer), Kenneth Watkin, H. F. Williamson, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Linda Beale, Loren Bode, Joe Danavi, Melissa Kennedy, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Jason Webber

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:10 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of the Minutes

Under Item III, Subcommittee B, a revision was made as follows: “The recent revisions were distributed in the meeting packet; however, the Committee is still waiting for additional information.” The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2006 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour asked Williamson to update the Committee on “Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors;” latest revisions were circulated today via e-mail. Williamson quipped that he, Rich and Zych are members of a self-appointed subcommittee to revise the Guidelines on Minors. He gave an update on the recent revisions and asked members to ignore the latest e-mail attachment and to contact him to request a hard copy.

The Chair acknowledged an e-mail he had sent this morning asking members to consider whether or not to hold a meeting on May 1; since he has a conflict (CBOC final meeting) until 2:00 that day, a meeting would have to be moved back to 2:00 p.m. He further pointed out that there is a Public Hearing scheduled on EP.06.35 at 3:00 p.m. that day. Williamson thought that since several committee members’ terms are expiring, it might be worthwhile to celebrate their service and at the same time invite the new committee members. Since members seemed uncertain as to a decision, Aminmansour suggested the issue be addressed at a later date via e-mail. He thanked everyone for their service and said he would be sorry to lose so many experienced members.

Aminmansour noted that an e-mail was circulated earlier today to announce the scheduling of a Public Hearing for May 1, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in room 196 Lincoln Hall to discuss the Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Create the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics (EP.06.35). Francis advised that any future Public Hearings not be held at the end of the academic year as she thought it made it difficult for the new Educational Policy Committee to consider come Fall.

III. Old Business

EP.06.21, Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS  In the absence of Professor Tappenden, Lesht reported on her behalf noting mostly pedagogical concerns; however, Tappenden was also concerned that NO letter of support was included from NRES as indicated in the ESES proposal. Carney pointed out that it had been presumed that the letter was forthcoming. Kuntz questioned if there is a precedence as this proposal had been previously approved to forward to the Senate prior to contact from Wesley Jarrell of NRES. Francis said she had some concerns regarding the relaxed curriculum; however, she saw no overlap with NRES as this proposal relates to biology and social science and not chemistry. Rich supported the stance of no overlap with NRES and pointed out that it is the social approach to the environment. Crockett remarked that the proposal read like a policy document; however, she thought the section on capstone courses provided too many choices. Aminmansour pointed out that these types of issues do come up on the Senate floor. Geil made a motion to send the proposal to the Senate as is; Karaffa seconded the motion.

The proposal was approved to forward to the Senate in September (Yes-7; No-3; Abstention-0).
Subcommittee B  

EP.05.31, Proposal from the College of Business for Revision of the Curriculum for the Department of Business Administration  The Department of Business Administration is currently revising this proposal.

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  Geil referred to the copy of a letter dated August 15, 2003 from Peter Mortensen, former Chair of the EPC regarding proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (handout) and thought this view to still be relevant. He noted that apparently nothing had been done relative to what we had proposed three years ago. Zych pointed out that there is no mention of student advising and thought that should also be included in the memorandum. Aminmansour and Carney will prepare a draft response in regard to our discussion; the response to Elliot Kaufman will include the Committee’s memo from 2003. The draft will be forwarded to the committee members via e-mail for a vote.

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

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

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

EP.06.40, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an undergraduate minor in Art History

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)

Subcommittee C  

EP.06.25, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the program leading to the Master of Social Work  Geil made a motion to accept the revisions (handout) and approve this proposal to forward to the Senate.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate in September.

VI. Other Business and Adjournment  

Berfield shared his concerns regarding the review of past departmental mergers, and asked if there would be any upcoming discussion regarding guidelines for the future. The Chair mentioned that Geil has a document for our consideration. He also thanked Berfield for his fairness and efforts during the TAM process. Aminmansour asked Rich to convey to the LAS Office that it will be necessary to provide videotaping of the upcoming Public Hearing (Formation of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics) to aid next year’s committee in the review process.

Williamson asked to go on record as thanking Abbas Aminmansour for chairing the Educational Policy Committee so effectively during 2005-2006. The committee members gave Chair Aminmansour a warm round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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