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 of the Meeting of September 19, 2005

Minor revisions were made to the bottom of the first page: “Zych pointed out some concerns with the Statement for the Bulletin; it appears some painting courses may have been accidentally removed.” Also, under Item IV, last paragraph, the word subcommittee was replaced with Task Group; members include Lucy Rich (Chair), Karen Carney, and Carol Malmgren. The minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2005 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported that the proposal to Transfer the Industrial Engineering Program from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to the Department of General Engineering (EP.05.22) was approved by the Senate on September 19, but not without discourse on the Senate floor. Questions arose as to procedures used in the proposal process; specifically whether or not a vote of the faculty was needed at the College level. The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Procedures has been asked to review the Statutes as to its interpretations.

The Chair mentioned that a proposal will be coming soon to the committee regarding the merging of the departments of Theoretical & Applied Mechanics (TAM) and Mechanical & Industrial Engineering. He has met with the sponsors to ensure that the proposal meets Educational Policy format and contains the necessary information; it has not yet been forwarded to the Provost’s Office.

III. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.06.09, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the revision of the Interdisciplinary Afro-American Studies Minor This proposal was just distributed in the meeting packet.

IV. Old Business

EP.05.29, Guidelines for the Academic Calendar The Chair referred to the latest revisions of this proposal (handout) and gave a quick overview of recent discussions. The Academic Calendar is prepared by following specific guidelines; a task group was formed last year to review these guidelines. At the present time, the only change that has been agreed upon is regarding fall semester; classes would start on a Monday rather than a Wednesday. Aminmansour asked if there were any other proposed changes and pointed out that Williamson had previously questioned whether the final exam schedule for spring semester should be revised. Williamson remarked that he was not necessarily advocating a change, but thought the guidelines for both semesters should read the same. The Chair remarked that if changes to the spring calendar were approved by the Senate, campus offices affected by these proposed changes have already proposed scenario to accommodate them; this would most likely imply that move-in day would occur on a weekday.

After some discussion of several editorial changes, a motion was made to vote on the fall Guidelines for the Academic Calendar. This section of the Guidelines was unanimously approved as amended to forward to the Senate.
The committee continued its discussion by considering the guidelines and how they relate to the spring semester. The Chair pointed out that spring semester can be exactly identical to fall with no final exams held on a Saturday. A motion was made to amend the Academic Calendar Guidelines to include no final exams on Saturday for the spring semester. The Guidelines for spring semester as amended were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee B

EP.05.31, Proposal from the College of Business for Revision of the Curriculum for the Department of Business Administration  Geil reported that he had sent a summary of suggested changes to the Department of Business Administration, but had not yet received a response.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.06, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in Sculpture  Goldberg reported that the department has been notified of proposed changes.

V. Pending Items

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  The Chair reported that since Kirby Barrick has left the University, there have been concerns as to who would sponsor the proposal to establish a leadership minor; however, Keith Hjelmstad (Engineering) has taken over in this capacity. Bettina Francis, last year’s chair of the subcommittee that considered this proposal, has met with Professor Raymond L. Price (ENGR) to discuss the concerns that arose last year about the proposal. This proposal has been assigned to subcommittee A.

EP.04.40, Proposed Changes to the Code pertaining to “Institutional Credit” and “Transfer Credit” (Subcommittee C with the addition of Lucy Rich)  Geil mentioned that the A Deans met recently and have come to somewhat of a conclusion on this issue. Goldberg referred to an article he had read recently in the Wall Street Journal regarding misrepresenting the value of a college degree and how an institution must be consistent with its reputation and goals that he thought the members should familiarize themselves.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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