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 October 3, 2005 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour noted that the recent editorial changes to the Academic Calendar are included in today’s meeting packet.

Rohrscheib brought up two issues on behalf of Student Senate Caucus:

1. Would like to see students who have bestowed Community Service graduate with special distinction or receive some type of recognition.

Chapman-Novakofski pointed out that someone would have to be responsible for accountability. Goldberg noted that both President White and Chancellor Herman presently have an initiative supporting community service; however, the College would have all the liability.

2. Would like to see the return of the ICES forms.

Chapman-Novakofski thought the Campus was attempting to get away from the ICES clout. Kuntz will look into this issue.

Aminmansour mentioned that when 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) went to the Senate, the issue arose as to whether or not a vote of the faculty was needed at the College level. Beale reported on behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) saying that the committee had been asked to research this issue. According to the institutional memory of 1982, a tape has been located of that particular Senate meeting whereby these procedures were approved; everyone understood them to mean that a vote was required. The USSP is presently preparing an amendment to the Standing Rules and also to the University Statutes; revisions to the latter would require approval by all three campuses. The Chair remarked that he had met recently with the Dean of Engineering regarding a proposal in the works to merge the departments of Theoretical & Applied Mechanics (TAM) and Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and has asked that a vote at the college level be included in the proposal packet. He pointed out that the Statutes were written with the best intentions, but asked the committee if this issue should be reviewed. Berfield noted that he is a graduate student in the TAM program and thought an actual vote provided better results than a public hearing. Geil felt that only the most concerned individuals turn up for a vote.

Chapman-Novakofski made a motion that the Educational Policy Committee supports the stand of the USSP by clarifying that a vote at the college level be required. Williamson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Chair explained that he knew of numerous occasions on campus where decisions at the administrative/college level had been made in response to student petitions that had grossly undermined the faculty. He understands that administrators must make judgments; however, such decisions thoroughly undermine the authority of our faculty. The members found this to be a pervasive issue and thought it should be reviewed. Beale suggested that this issue be taken before the A Deans to see how they might view...
discretionary rights. Aminmansour thought it to be not only a personal issue but also a faculty issue and that there should be an appeal process for an instructor. Carney thought there needed to be an agreed upon set of principles. Beale was concerned that there had been an erosion of faculty control into administrator control. L. Rich reported that the College of LAS alone receives five or six hundred petitions (grade change or class withdrawal) a semester. Kuntz reiterated the suggestion that this issue be forwarded to the A Deans for review. L. Rich explained some recent changes to the Code that may have affected the academic integrity process. The Chair stressed the need for additional oversight and review whenever a petition does not meet with unanimous consent. Aminmansour will take this issue to the A Deans.

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 Zych found this proposal to be solid and ready for Senate approval. Goldberg moved for approval; Geil second the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

IV. Old Business

EP.05.06, Midterm Grade Issues; Discussion of Extension The Chair explained that it has been customary for UIUC to distribute mid-semester grades to all freshmen; however, the new Banner System only has the capabilities to send grades to all students on campus. On March 14, 2005 the EPC voted to require midterm grades for all freshmen as stipulated in Rule 69C of the Code. The recommendation was to support the policy as written; the template was to forward grades to first-time students.

A motion was made for an extension of one-year with an Amendment that this be the last time an extension is offered; Goldberg seconded the motion. The vote was seven for the Amendment; one against.

The amended proposal was unanimously approved.

EP.05.29, Guidelines for the Academic Calendar The Chair referred to the latest editorial changes to the Guidelines for the Academic Calendar (handout). The committee held a short discussion. This proposal was previously approved; revised guidelines plus charts will be forwarded to the Senate with a recommendation that these guidelines be considered for calendars starting in fall 2007.

Subcommittees:

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 L. Rich reported that she and Bettina Francis met recently with representatives from the participating colleges who have withdrawn this proposal with intentions of submitting a new one within eight weeks. The Chair suggested that Keith Hjelmstad, the new sponsor of the proposal, be asked to provide official notification of this decision.

Subcommittee B

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 he intends to meet with the A Deans later this week on this proposal.

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 not yet received a response from the department regarding suggested revisions.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.05, Proposal from the College of Engineering to revise and increase the hours of the B.S. Degree in Materials Science and Engineering Bode asked for an explanation of the areas of concentrations. The Chair reminded members that we have yet to discuss the proposed guidelines on what constitutes a concentration for undergraduates. It was suggested that the terminology be changed; the word “concentration” will be replaced throughout the proposal with the word “area.”
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 not yet responded to our request for revisions despite the fact that the secretary sent a reminder.

V. Pending Items

None are pending at this time.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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