Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, January 29, 2007

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Thomas Berfield, Loren Bode, Cheston Brauer, Phillip Geil, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), John Marden, Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Leslie Struble, Laird Thompson, Daniel Walsh, Kenneth Watkin, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Jo Duchene (ex officio), Joseph Goldberg, Susan Lamb, Claire Pedersen, Kelly Tappenden,

Guests: Andrew Hamilton, Graduate student; Mary Lowry, Assistant to the Dean, Graduate College; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Lucy Rich, Assistant Dean, LAS Administration

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 November 27, 2006 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone back and expressed wishes for a happy new year. He acknowledged Kristi Kuntz’s return from maternity leave; and also noted the presence of new member Daniel Walsh and Associate Dean Ann Mester who will be attending future meetings as a guest.

Aminmansour reported on the following:

- The Provost has formed an Instructional Space Advisory Group; Aminmansour is a member on behalf of the EPC as well as graduate student Thomas Berfield. The charge of the Committee is to look at instructional space both existing and new as well as equipment and technology. There is a possibility that a permanent committee may be formed after this group completes its task.

- Please disregard the draft report regarding Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (EP.06.32) as it was distributed in error; survey results on this issue and final report of the Task Group will be distributed later.

- Aminmansour met recently with Vernon Burton, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), Nick Burbules, Vice Chair of the SEC; Linda Katehi, Provost; Ruth Watkins, Vice Provost; and Keith Marshall, Associate Provost regarding programs that were approved administratively in the past. Although this information is not necessarily confidential, he asked committee members to not share the information with other faculty members or department heads, but to leave it up to the Provost’s Office for notification and follow-up.

- Chair Aminmansour presented an update on the letter of inquiry from the Mother’s & Dad’s Associations regarding the A+ Grading System saying that he, along with Carol Malmgren and Jo Duchene, had met with them recently to address their questions. He reported that the meeting was very successful and the group felt that they had received adequate information on the subject.

- A Global Campus Workshop was held on December 6, 2006; and a Retreat attended by around 30 people was held on January 8. Aminmansour thought attendees of the latter left thinking they had made progress. The revised document was prepared by Chet Gardner after the January 8 meeting; however, some thought more revisions were necessary. The Global Campus Partnership was presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting on January 18th but not for a vote. President White hopes the BOT will vote when the BOT meeting is held on this campus in March. UIC Senate has endorsed the revised document in principle. The Senate Executive Committee meets later today with President White; although this meeting was scheduled some time ago, the Chair presumed that this issue would be discussed.

- The Committee’s Web site has been updated and may be accessed at http://www.senate.uiuc.edu/ep/index.htm.
III. Old Business

EP.06.32, Proposed guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218), letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference  As mentioned in Item II, the Chair is waiting for the Survey results on this issue.

Timing of mid-semester grade reports for freshmen (to be discussed in Spring 2007)  Aminmansour asked that this issue be delayed for now; mid-semester grade reports for freshmen were implemented last semester and the issue of compliance will be discussed after receipt of more information.

Review and discussion of the newly revised Leadership proposals

EP.07.10, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish a Joint Degree Program involving the Civic Leadership Concentration, Masters of Arts in Political Science and the Juris Doctorate, College of LAS and College of LAW

EP.07.11, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish a Graduate Concentration in Civic Leadership within the M.A. in Political Science

EP.07.12, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requesting the establishment of a Civic Leadership Program in Political Science

Chair Aminmansour reported that the College had withdrawn the Minor proposal (EP.07.09) in November. Accordingly, the remaining three proposals have been revised to reflect its withdrawal. Geil pointed out several discrepancies:

- EP.07.10 lists some courses that are to be taken jointly between departments.
- EP.07.11 still contains several references to the Minor and also to units.
- EP.07.12 still contains references to the Minor and also to units.

Zych noted that a paragraph is missing between pages 1 and 2 in proposal EP.07.12.

Marshall asked the committee members if they are comfortable with the definition of a Program. The Chair mentioned that he had spoken recently with Bill Maher, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes & Senate Procedures regarding the definition of a Program. He added that Maher will be attending a future meeting of the EPC to receive input from us before taking the issue to his committee. Marshall pointed out that its meaning can be determined by how it is funded. Mester thought there was a meaningful distinction between these two programs; there are several degree options under an umbrella. She suggested that she, Kristi Kuntz and Keith Marshall meet with the department on all three proposals to discuss their future goals. Mester agreed that funding is rather mysterious and thought it might not be wise to rush approval at this time. Aminmansour thought the EPC should be better versed on the use of programs and that a Statutes change may be necessary. The review of the Leadership proposals has been moved to pending.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences  Bode suggested that this proposal be merged into EP.07.24, since they share a commonality.

Subcommittee B

EP.07.10, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish a Joint Degree Program involving the Civic Leadership Concentration, Masters of Arts in Political Science and the Juris Doctorate, College of LAS and College of LAW  See above.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.11, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish a Graduate Concentration in Civic Leadership within the M.A. in Political Science  See above.

IV. New Business

EP.07.31, 2011-2012 Academic Calendar
The Chair reported that the proposed Academic Calendars have been prepared by Robert Damrau, the Senate Clerk, in hopes of adhering to current guidelines. Malmgren suggested minor changes to Summer Session terminologies to meet Banner standards. Aminmansour asked Malmgren to discuss the changes with Damrau and simply report to the EPC.

Geil made a motion that the three Calendars be approved subject to minor changes; Brauer seconded the motion.

The three proposals were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittees:

Subcommittee A

EP.07.18, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Undergraduate Minor in Atmospheric Sciences

Bode suggested some minor editorial changes to this proposal, and made a motion for approval pending such changes. Watkin seconded the motion. Bode will be in contact with Dean Mester as to the exact revisions.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.19, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish an Undergraduate Major in the Science & Letters Curriculum in Atmospheric Sciences

Bode raised questions as to the budgetary and staff implications; number of minimum hours noted in the Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog; and B1, Deficiencies in the proposed course offering. He questioned whether or not money was available to fund the proposed computer lab. After some discussion, several editorial changes were suggested. A vote will be taken at a later date after editorial changes have been made and budget clarifications are received.

EP.07.34, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Certificate of Advanced Studies Concentration in Educational Administration & Leadership in the College of Education

EP.07.35, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Doctor of Philosophy Concentration in Educational Administration & Leadership in the College of Education

EP.07.36, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Doctor of Education Concentration in Educational Administration & Leadership in the College of Education

EP.07.37, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Master of Education Concentration in Educational Administration & Leadership in the College of Education

EP.07.38, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Master of Science Concentration in Educational Administration & Leadership in the College of Education

Bode reported that the above five proposals from the Graduate College are basically the same except for different concentrations; however, he did suggest some minor revisions. Bode made a motion for approval pending revisions; Watkin seconded the motion.

Proposals EP.07.34 through EP.07.38 were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B

EP.07.20, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to establish a Concentration Preparatory for the Teaching of East Asian Languages within the Current Bachelor of Arts (Science & Letters curriculum) in East Asian Languages & Cultures

Geil had questions regarding the proposals title, but made a motion for approval pending minor revision. Bode seconded the motion. Thompson asked about budget limitations. Mester assured him that the money will be made available and that the College anticipates great growth in the Mandarin Chinese Program.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.21, Proposal from the College of ACES to establish an Animal Sciences Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics

EP.07.22, Proposal from the College of ACES to establish a Crop Sciences
Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics  Geil noted discrepancies in total hours; also, effective date needs to be corrected.

EP.07.26, Proposal from the College of Engineering for revision of the Bioengineering Minor  To be discussed at a later date.

EP.07.27, Proposal from the College of Fine & Applied Arts to revise the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Planning  To be discussed at a later date.

The members expressed some concerns regarding programs in Bioinformatics and expressed interest in having someone well-versed in the topic speak to the Committee.

EP.07.28, Proposal from GSLIS to establish a Graduate Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics  Geil reported that he had no concerns related to this proposal and moved for approval; Walsh seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.17, Proposal from the College of Business to establish a Graduate Concentration in Taxation  Thompson noted that while this proposal is basically a change in title, he would like clarification of the first paragraph of Budgetary and staff implications regarding the program offered in Chicago. He will look into this issue before the next meeting.

EP.07.23, Proposal from the College of Fine & Applied Arts to establish an Undergraduate Major in New Media within the BFA Degree in the School of Art & Design  Thompson noted that New Media has created a great deal of interest in undergraduates. Under Budgetary and Staff Implications, he noted that no additional staff is necessary as they hired two new faculty members last year. Zych cited the need for editorial changes in the Statement for Programs of Study Catalog.

Due to time constraints, the following proposals were not discussed.

EP.07.24, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Curricula offered through the Department of Crop Sciences

EP.07.25, Proposal from the College of Fine & Applied Arts for the revision of Undergraduate requirements for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

EP.07.29, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to revise the Mathematics & Computer Science curriculum

EP.07.30, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to revise the Statistics & Computer Science curriculum

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

EP.07.16, Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors

VI.  Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy