Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, February 5, 2007

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Thomas Berfield, Loren Bode, Cheston Brauer, Jo Duchene (ex officio), Phillip Geil, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), John Marden, Claire Pedersen, Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Laird Thompson, Daniel Walsh, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Joseph Goldberg, David Kovacic, Susan Lamb, Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Kenneth Watkin

Guests: Clif Brown, Professor, Accountancy; Andrew Hamilton, Graduate student; 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 January 29, 2007 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour deferred to Carol Malmgren for an update on mid-semester grade reports for freshmen. Malmgren noted that Chair Aminmansour, on behalf of the EPC, had sent a reminder in the fall explaining that the Policy had been reinstated after a long hiatus. She noted that OAR (Office of Admissions and Records) will be soliciting mid-semester grades reports for freshmen for second time since implementation of BANNER. Malmgren reported that the compliance rate last semester was similar to before implementing BANNER. She requested that the Chair send a similar message again to all teaching staff encouraging them to submit mid-semester grades for freshmen on time. The Committee unanimously endorsed the idea. Chair will write the message. Kuntz stated that the Provost’s office will forward the message to all teaching staff.

On another subject, Malmgren reported that delays in grade submission at the end of the semester cause problems for colleges, students and her office. Delays could affect students’ GPA calculations, graduation certification, Dean’s list, Bronz Tablet selection, qualifications for scholarships and awards etc. Zych pointed out that late grade submission also affects teacher certification. Malmgren requested that a message from the Chair be resent for spring semester, but with a strong emphasis that faculty members comply with the deadline. Committee members shared concerns and discussed possible solutions; it was suggested that perhaps the request on end-semester grade reports should come from the Chancellor. The Chair will meet with Jo Duchene, Carol Malmgren and Kristi Kuntz to discuss this issue further.

The Chair took a moment to thank student members for their attendance and encouraged their active participation.

III. Old Business

EP.07.17, Proposal from the College of Business to establish a Graduate Concentration in Taxation  
Thompson reported that this proposal is for a concentration in an existing graduate degree with students at the Chicago campus. Professor Clif Brown, professor in the sponsoring unit, explained that the major in Taxation at the Chicago campus offers a wide selection of classes in its Executive Program, whereas this campus only offers three courses, and is negotiating to create minors for a two semester program. He noted that there are no changes to the degree itself. Thompson made a motion to approve; Geil seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences  
This proposal is to be merged into EP.07.24.
EP.07.18. Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Undergraduate Minor in Atmospheric Sciences  Please note: On January 29, the EPC unanimously approved this proposal to forward to the Senate; however, the sponsor has since decided to withdraw it pending submission of a new proposal.

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 noted that he had received revisions to this proposal earlier today in response to concerns discussed at the last meeting.

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  Presently pending.

EP.07.21. Proposal from the College of ACES to establish an Animal Sciences Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics and EP.07.22. Proposal from the College of ACES to establish a Crop Sciences Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics  The Committee discussed concerns regarding an overlap of concentrations; Geil will contact sponsor with questions.

EP.07.22. Proposal from the College of ACES to establish a Crop Sciences Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics  Due to time constraints, this proposal was not discussed.

EP.07.26. Proposal from the College of Engineering for revision of the Bioengineering Minor  Geil shared concerns relative to 300 level courses for the Minor. Kuntz suggested holding approval on this proposal until after Senate approval of the Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors (EP.07.16). Lucy Rich will forward an electronic copy of the Guidelines to the Secretary for distribution. The Committee members agreed to defer approval until after new guidelines are approved; Geil will contact the College of Engineering Executive Committee as to a course upgrade.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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  Presently pending.

EP.07.17. Proposal from the College of Business to establish a graduate Concentration in Taxation  See above.

EP.07.23. Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an Undergraduate Major in New Media within the BFA Degree in the School of Art & Design  Thompson reported that this is an effort by the Department of Art and Design to enter into Web based New Media degrees. There appears to be some inconsistencies in degree hours; the Committee discussed necessary revisions of which Thompson will share with Nan Goggin, the proposer.

EP.07.24. Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Curricula offered through the Department of Crop Sciences  Bode reported that this proposal is actually entwined with EP.07.04. Zych suggested some editorial changes. Thompson made a motion to approve with revisions; Bode seconded the motion. Zych noted an error in the effective date.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.25. Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts for the revision of Undergraduate requirements for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture  Thompson summarized the intent of this proposal pointing out that the department is adding a fifth year to a normal 4-year program; the fifth year being an off-campus internship in landscape architecture. Duchene inquired as to procedural complications for students who have a 4-year guarantee for tuition. Kuntz recommended that we ask the department if they understand the full implication of adding a fifth year and if there is justification. When asked how many undergraduate programs presently require a fifth year, Kuntz replied that there are none at this time. Zych noted some discrepancies in the chart for proposed undergraduate curriculum, third year, spring semester. Thompson will take these concerns back to the
department; the chair asked that he copy Marian Stone in the college office with his inquiry. Geil made a motion for approval pending revisions; Thompson seconded the motion.

The proposal was approved (9 in favor, 1 against, no abstentions) to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.29, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Mathematics & Computer Science curriculum and EP.07.30, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Statistics & Computer Science curriculum Due to time constraints, these proposals were not discussed.

IV. New Business

Subcommittee A

The following proposals were distributed at the meeting; therefore, will be discussed at a later date.

EP.07.39, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Certificate of Advanced Studies Concentration in Higher Education in the College of Education

EP.07.40, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Master of Science Concentration in Higher Education in the College of Education

EP.07.41, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Master of Education Concentration in the College of Education

EP.07.42, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Doctor of Education Concentration in Higher Education in the College of Education

EP.07.43, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Doctor of Philosophy Concentration in Higher Education in the College of Education

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

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

Timing of mid-semester grade reports for freshmen (to be discussed in Spring 2007)

EP.07.16, Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors

Review and discussion of the four 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

VI. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Minutes approved as amended.