Approved as Amended.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, February 12, 2007

Minutes

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

Absent: Loren Bode, Joseph Goldberg, David Kovacic, Susan Lamb, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Guests: 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

Brauer pointed out a small revision to Item II, second paragraph: “…..it was suggested that perhaps the request on end-semester grade reports should come from the Chancellor.” The Minutes of February 5, 2007 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported that the Committee is scheduled to meet on March 12; however, he will be out of the country at that time. After a short discussion, it was noted that the meeting date may be cancelled at a later date contingent on the status of committee business.

Marshall reported that due to current diversity issues, the Provost’s office is examining general education requirements. Chancellor Herman and Provost Katehi will meet with the General Education Board on February 23 to review guidelines as to any flexibility for diversity sake. Marshall noted that there is currently a general curriculum program in LAS that accommodates 3,500 freshmen and sophomore students; students must declare a major by completion of 60 hours. It is questionable whether or not this program could better serve the campus if it were housed outside of LAS; perhaps a General Curriculum Center within the Provost’s office instead as the program has no degrees, and no faculty. The Provost has expressed an interest in extending the curriculum’s goals within the Strategic Plan. Marshall described this general curriculum program as a holding tank for students while exploring their options; it has a staff of approximately 15 and gives excellent advising to approximately 15,000 students per year. A feasibility study is being conducted as to any future improvements and potential price tag. Duchene remarked that in her experience and exploration, she has only seen general curriculum as a stand-alone unit or in LAS; she would prefer to see it free standing as opposed to part of the Provost’s office.

Malmgren gave an update on the status of survey results on Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (EP.07.44) and reported that her office has received 32 replies from the 66 institutions surveyed whereby only 3 participate in dual institutional degrees. She will share results of the survey when completed. The Chair noted that he had discussed recently with Chet Gardner. Gardner stated that if the Global Campus is implemented, at least completion of the multi-institutional guidelines between the three campuses will be necessary.

III. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

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 Stubble gave an update on the status of this proposal based on recent discussion with Loren Bode; since the subcommittee is in receipt of revisions, she moved for approval. Brauer seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.
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  Dean Mester reported that although this is a relative expensive program, she is confident that funding is committed. Also, it has come to the Committee’s attention that Peter Nardulli has requested the approval of a name change to the Center for the Study of Democratic Governance at the request of the donors who would like their own name on the Center. Kuntz noted that this request may not be granted at this time as the Center has only temporary status from the IBHE. No ruling was made.

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 and EP.07.22, Proposal from the College of ACES to establish a Crop Sciences Concentration within the Master of Science in Bioinformatics  Geil reported that these two proposals are presently pending as requested revisions have not yet been forwarded from the department.

EP.07.26, Proposal from the College of Engineering for revision of the Bioengineering Minor  Geil reported that Bruce Wheeler has forwarded revisions; therefore, he made a motion for approval. Pedersen seconded the motion.

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.07.23, 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  Presently pending.

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  Thompson reported that eighty percent of students in computer science take the same courses; the proposals indicate requirements for an additional two courses. Thompson made a motion for approval; Walsh seconded the motion.

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

IV. New Business

Subcommittee A

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

Marden reported that that the above five proposals parallel each other and moved approval on behalf of the subcommittee; Struble seconded the motion.

The five proposals were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.
Subcommittee B

EP.07.44, Proposal from the College of LAS requesting the establishment of an Honors Concentration to the Major in Science and Letters Curriculum in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Geil expressed concerns about instructor workloads indicated in this proposal; proposal to be discussed again at a later date.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.16, Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors. Dean Rich reported that some time ago, she, Chet Zych and Bill Williamson had been charged by EPC Chair Aminmansour with reviewing the “Guidelines” documentation in an effort to update language to current standards. The committee held a discussion of the draft; editorial changes were suggested. Aminmansour pointed out that it is within the privy of the Committee to review anything that is to be noted on a transcript that includes any pre-requisites for minors. Duchene noted that a minor is an optional pursuit; students do not get priority to take a course, only students in a major get priority. Rich mentioned that while departments are not required to give priority to students in a minor. She added that departments may substitute course work; the college controlling minor must report such substitution to student’s home college. Rich also noted that when the original document was created (EP.907.18) engineering was not viewed as a cross-campus minor. The committee members questioned how the guidelines might affect secondary teacher education. The Chair suggested that further discussion be held until Chet Zych is on hand for further clarification. He also suggested that Bill Williamson be invited to participate in the discussion.

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 Senators 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 2:25 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy