Minutes

I. Approval of the Minutes

Two editorial changes were made; the Minutes of April 9, 2007 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair turned the floor over to Kristi Kuntz for an update on administrative decisions made recently by the Provost’s office. Kuntz reported that NRES had requested that two courses required for the major, which are no longer offered, be removed from the core. The remaining 6 hours will be replaced by departmental electives. After consultation with the Committee Chair, the Provost’s office thought this appropriate and had granted the request.

Kuntz cited another instance where in order to declare a Business minor a student must have taken 3 courses and have met the GPA requirement; it was noted that this could be considered an admission issue and should be left up to the department. Rich said she objects to this requirement as the business minor would become a restricted minor. Mester concurred as she saw this as a dangerous precedent. A campus-wide GPA requirement has only been allowed for intercollegiate transfers. The Chair said it was his understanding that this issue is not in the jurisdiction of the EPC. Mester noted that it would certainly have been discussed by the EPC if it had been included in the original proposal and that perhaps 1) the policy issue of whether minors can have a GPA admissions requirement ought to be considered by EPC, and 2) if this is allowable then EPC should decide which committee or office should have approval power over all such proposals. Rich said in considering interdisciplinary minors, she can see both sides. It was agreed that the Committee will reserve judgment on this particular issue pending receipt of more information.

Aminmansour introduced Greg McIsaac, Chair of the Senate Committee on the Library, who is monitoring proposals under review by the EPC for any possible effects on Library resources. Kuntz said the Provost’s office will be having discussions on this process and will be consulting with McIsaac and the Library Committee. She noted that ideally this issue should be clarified in each proposal prior to EPC review.

Malmgren reported that the issue of the timing of mid-semester grade reports for freshmen (EP.05.06) has just been reviewed by the Associate Deans group having approved new dates for submission of mid-term grades. Faculty will receive 3 additional days, this includes the weekend. Fall mid-term grades must be in by noon on October 9 with the undergraduate drop date set for October 12; spring grades must be in by March 4, with the undergraduate drop course date set for March 7. Malmgren noted that the drop dates fall in the eighth week of the semester reducing the time students have to get into see an advisor. This issue had been on the Committee’s Pending Items agenda for some time. Committee members unanimously approved removal of this issue from the agenda.

Chet Zych announced that this would be his last day on the Committee and that he had enjoyed serving. Chair Aminmansour thanked him for his loyal, dedicated and knowledgeable service and wished him the best of luck.
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

Members agreed that last week’s discussion had been very specific to the National University of Singapore, but had set a clear stage for what is going on world-wide. The Chair noted that the Committee should continue to review this issue in principle and look at individual guidelines. Struble made the following motion: “The EPC agrees in principle that Multi-Institutional Degrees should be developed and will finalize proposed guidelines to that effect.” Watkin seconded the motion. Malmgren noted that students in the Singapore program presently receive a degree from their home institution and a multi-institution certificate with signatures from both institutions. Duchene pointed out that there is presently no funding for our students at the Ph.D. level to receive both degrees. Kuntz said that there are agencies presently looking for a “good faith” movement. The Chair asked for volunteers to review the proposed guidelines over the summer; this Subcommittee will consist of Phil Geil, Kristi Kuntz, Carol Malmgren, John Marden, Ann Mester, Lucy Rich, Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Kevin Waspi and Ken Watkin.

The Committee voted to approve the motion; 10 voted Yes, 1 voted No, and there was 1 abstention.

Subcommittees

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

The Committee members directed any questions to the proposal’s sponsors Melissa Michael and Charles Miller. Malmgren pointed out an issue significant among Registrars when programs require student related academic activities; in order to be recognized on a student’s transcript this must be credit bearing activity work to serve the best interest of the student. The sponsors were asked to make revisions to pages 2 and 3; qualify the Budgetary and Staff Implications and the Guidelines for Undergraduate Education. Geil moved approval contingent on receipt of the revisions; Brauer seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

IV. New Business

EP.07.59, Proposal from the Illinois Informatics Initiative to establish an Undergraduate Informatics Minor

McIsaac shared concerns of the Library Committee that the required collections are highly specialized; he thought this program would increase the demand for reserve materials. Walsh referred to page 9 of the proposal and noted courses not listed in the catalog. Kendall said this course list is on-going; the department will soon hire a coordinator to work with departments in adding course work. Kuntz noted that this program is experimental; courses will become permanent in time. Aminmansour asked Kuntz to provide a letter of confirmation from the Provost’s office to work with the Library to address the concerns raised regarding needed resources to support the undergraduates pursuing this minor. Goldberg made a motion to approve contingent on adequate funding from the Provost’s office; Watkin seconded the motion. (A revised version of the proposal was forwarded via e-mail but had not been viewed by all the members.)

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee A

EP.07.55, Proposal from the Graduate College to request a Revision to Establish Two Transcript-Recognized Concentrations within the Ph.D. Curriculum in Human and Community Development, College of ACES

Struble reported that Loren Bode had met with the proposal’s sponsor, Ramona Oswald and that she has provided a revised proposal for our consideration. Per the subcommittee’s request, Oswald’s revisions include the removal of “Transcript Recognized” and a change in the hours in the two tables. Bode had also suggested that Appendix A be removed as it is an internal checklist and would likely cause confusion. Marden thought that the Masters requirements should be included for reference. Struble made a motion for approval; Walsh seconded the motion. (The revisions later forwarded by the department included a revised Appendix A.)

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as amended.
Subcommittee B

EP.07.56, Proposal from the Graduate College to request Formal Recognition of the Concentration in Spanish Linguistics within the M.A. in Spanish, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, College of LAS

Geil shared concerns in the *Statement for Programs of Study Catalog* regarding teacher certification. Suggested changes to that page include: change the word Fields to Areas; change concentration to Specialization; and add a sentence of clarification: *The department also offers a graduate level certification option for those interested in becoming certified to teach Spanish in grades K-12.* Geil made a motion to approve with minor changes; Berfield seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.57, Request to establish an Undergraduate Minor in Molecular and Cellular Biology, College of LAS

After a short discussion, Goldberg made a motion that this proposal be approved to forward to the Senate; Geil seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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

Timing of mid-semester grade reports for freshmen (to be discussed in Spring 2007)  
This item has been removed from the agenda; see Item II.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Aminmansour noted that this was the last scheduled meeting of the semester. He thanked everyone for all their hard work efforts and for caring for this university; he also wished everyone the best of luck during summer break. Since the Chair will be out of town at the time of the last Senate meeting scheduled for April 30, he asked that subcommittee chairs be available to answer any questions that might come up on the Senate floor regarding EPC proposals on the consent agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy