Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, August 28, 2006  

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Stephen Boppart, Cheston Brauer, Jo Duchene (ex officio), Joseph Goldberg, Avantika Gupta, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), John Marden, Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Claire Pedersen, Kelly Tappenden, Laird Thompson, Kenneth Watkin, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Thomas Berfield, Brian Pierce, Leslie Struble, Daniel Walsh

Guests: Phillip Geil, Lucy Rich

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:10 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Aminmansour welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour referred to an e-mail message he had forwarded to the Committee earlier in the day directing members to the EPC Web to view the Committee’s charge and the status of its proposals. Aminmansour explained that it is the Committee’s charge to review all major curriculum changes and degree requirements; he also noted that the EPC is a very busy committee and encouraged members to attend meetings on a regular basis.

The Global Campus Task Force of which Aminmansour serves as a member, met earlier today; Faye Lesht and Tom Ward are serving as co-chairs. Lesht provided an overview of that meeting noting that the Campus presently offers online degree programs; this task force has been asked for suggestions to enhance those efforts. There are several target areas: Education, Business, Nursing and degree completion. The Chair asked that anyone with concerns or recommendations should communicate them to Lesht.

The Chair reported that in the past he has been instrumental in making minor administrative decisions on behalf of the EPC and later reporting them to the Committee. The most recent decision was relative to EP.06.02, Proposal from the College of Engineering for a joint BS/MS program in Materials Science and Engineering, which had been approved by the Senate September 19, 2005. Geil explained the changes to the Course Requirements. Aminmansour noted that the changes were made administratively in order that revisions could be incorporated into the current Course Catalog. He also mentioned that a list of established programs previously approved administratively is being developed to forward to the Senate in an effort to protect faculty and students.

Chair Aminmansour noted that the recent letter from the University Senates Conference related to Multi-Institution Degrees (EP.06.32) had brought about the discovery of earlier communications by the EPC on the subject. A recent meeting with Karen Carney, Kristi Kuntz, Keith Marshall, and Dick Wheeler, concluded that this issue requires special attention and should be referred to a subcommittee for review.

The EPC will soon receive a proposal to merge the Institute of Communications Research (ICR) and the Department of Speech Communication, a merger that would form a new Department of Communication housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Chair asked student members if they had received any communication from the Chancellor regarding the possibility of a pandemic such as bird flu. The Campus is worried about the implications of such an emergency and how to prepare for its possible occurrence.

The Chair reported that the Subcommittee List that was included in the meeting packet is a work in progress; latest revisions may be found on the EPC Web site at http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/senate/ep. He announced that Phil Geil, a former member of the EPC and visitor at today’s meeting, has been
nominated to fill a recent resignation on the Committee. Following Senate approval on September 25, Aminmansour anticipates that Geil will not only serve as a member of the committee, but also as a subcommittee chair. The proposed chairship for Subcommittee A, B and C are Loren Bode, Phil Geil and Joseph Goldberg respectively.

III. Minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2006

At the end of spring semester an e-mail message was forwarded to the committee members requesting that any changes be forwarded to the secretary otherwise the minutes would be considered approved as written. A motion was made and seconded that the Minutes be officially approved as written.

IV. Previously approved forward to the Senate on September 25

EP.06.21, Proposal to Establish the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment, and Society in LAS and EP.06.25, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the program leading to the Master of Social Work. The Chair announced that the above proposals were approved by the EPC in April; however, he asked the new committee to re-affirm that decision as they will go before the Senate on September 25 under this committee. The proposals were voted on as a package and were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

V. Old Business

Discussion of general concept regarding the principles of Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees. This issue was discussed under Item II.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.06.40, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an undergraduate minor in Art History. The Committee members discussed the revisions distributed in the meeting packet pointing out the following concerns: the courses appear to be heavily subscribed; proposal does not contain a complete course list; and course numbers are still in old terminology. Bode will contact the department for revisions and clarification.

Subcommittee B

EP.05.31, Proposal from the College of Business for Revision of the Curriculum for the Department of Business Administration. Geil, who had previously served as chair of Subcommittee B and had met recently with the proposal’s sponsor Mark Roszkowski, gave an overview of its status and moved that the proposal be approved pending receipt of suggested revisions.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

VI. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.07.01, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an Undergraduate Minor in Landscape Studies

Subcommittee B

EP.07.02, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the Major in Sciences & Letters Curriculum in Art History. A short discussion revealed a couple discrepancies related to total hours.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.03, Proposal from the College of Business to establish a Graduate Minor in Finance in the Department of Finance. The committee members pointed out several discrepancies. Goldberg will contact the sponsor and request that they omit reference to units; that a fourth course be included in the minor; and that the outdated numbering system be replaced. It was also questioned if it were appropriate that the minor advisor be an assistant professor.

VII. 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

Subcommittee A

EP.06.29, Proposal from the College of Education to establish graduate majors that correspond to the names of each six departments that currently offer programs leading to graduate degrees  Kuntz distributed the revised proposal dated April 10, 2006 and noted that the proposal is to align the degree title with the standard practice.

Subcommittee B

EP.06.20, Proposal from the college of ACES for approval to drop the Minor in Fiber Science currently offered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES)  Returned in January for a format change, this proposal has never come back from the department.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.35, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics  Aminmansour reported that a public hearing was held on May 1 without any expressed opposition; since any major discussion by the EPC is always held until after the hearing, the committee has yet to discuss.

VIII. Other Business and Adjournment

Malmgren gave an update on mid-semester grade reports; enforcement of the provision written in the “Student Code” had been temporarily suspended for 2006-2007 academic year pending a modification to the Student Information System, Banner. The modification gives the University the ability to define a specific student population for which a midterm grade is entered. Now that the Banner System has been adjusted to define mid-semester grades for only freshmen, she asked the Committee for its recommendation on how to proceed. The Committee members voted unanimously to proceed with mid-semester grades for fall 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Approved as amended in Item VIII