Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, September 18, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Thomas Berfield, Loren Bode, Cheston Brauer, Jo Duchene (ex officio), Joseph Goldberg, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, Faye Lesht (ex officio), Carol Malmgren (observer), John Marden, Kenneth Watkin, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Stephen Boppart, Avantika Gupta, David Kovacic, Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Claire Pedersen, Brian Pierce, Leslie Struble, Kelly Tappenden, Laird Thompson, Daniel Walsh

Guests: Virginia France, Phillip Geil, Doug Kibbee, Mary Lowry, Ann Mester, Lucy Rich

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. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour announced that a public hearing has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 3:45 to 5:00 p.m., the location to be announced, to discuss the Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the School of Earth, Society and Environment. He asked for the Committee’s approval of the date and then noted that the College could go ahead with its publicity.

Aminmansour deferred to Kuntz to provide background information on EP.07.07, Proposal from the College of Engineering requesting the establishment of the Technology Entrepreneur Center. Kuntz noted that the proposal to establish a research center has been written in IBHE format; although the Center presently exists, it is not recognized by the IBHE and has not been given permanent status. Kuntz asked that the Committee consider the proposal in relation to its course offerings and collaboration with other departments. She also answered questions as to online certificates and levels of governance as to graduate concentrations.

In response to the Chair’s request for clarification of EP.07.01, Proposal from the College of FAA to establish an Undergraduate Minor in Landscape Studies, Kuntz explained that there are concerns as to wording of the minor specifically the certification body should be the student’s home college. This concern also applies to EP.06.40, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an undergraduate Minor in Art History; changes to these proposals will be made administratively.

II. Minutes of the meeting of August 28, 2006

Under Item VIII, Carol Malmgren suggested the following revision: “……academy 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 Minutes of August 28, 2006 were approved as amended.

III. Old Business

Subcommittees

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. Bode reported that the sponsoring department had not yet forwarded a Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog. Bode asked that the proposal be approved pending receipt of the Statement; Zych made a request to review the Statement before the proposal is forwarded to the Senate. Watkin made a motion for approval; Goldberg seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.
EP.06.40, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish an undergraduate minor in Art History

Bode distributed copies of a revised Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog and noted that recent revisions to the proposal were distributed at the door. He made a motion for approval; Goldberg seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.06.35, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics

The Chair noted that a Public Hearing on the proposed school had been held on May 1 and that he has not received any concerns or comments. Goldberg reported that Subcommittee C has also not expressed any concerns or comments. Professor Kibbee responded to Geil’s inquiry that the School might create the need for more administrative staff saying that support staff had actually been cut in half. In response to Lamb’s inquiry on school size, he reported there to be about 120 tenure faculty, 30 non-tenure faculty and 300 students. Malgren reported that the current shared services on Campus has shown to be very successful; she did point out that facilities are governed by department as to allocations and encouraged folks to work with her office.

Goldberg made a motion for approval, Bode seconded the motion. The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

IV. New Business

Subcommittee A

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

Bode reported that Gary Kesler had revised the proposal in response to several minor concerns by the subcommittee (copies distributed at the door). Bode moved to approve; Watkin seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences

Bode mentioned that the proposal does not currently include a Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog; however, the department will be asked to provide one. During a short discussion, Geil questioned the deletion of the requirement for 3-5 hours of internship as he thought it was beneficial to all students. Zych questioned the formatting and budgetary implications. Kuntz agreed to contact the department for clarification.

EP.07.07, Proposal from the College of Engineering requesting the establishment of the Technology Entrepreneur Center

Kuntz explained that this is an administrative research center with no educational impact. Zych pointed out minor typographical errors on pages 4 and 5. Bode made a motion to approve; Goldberg seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate pending minor revisions.

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

Geil reported that at the last meeting some minor discrepancies related to total hours had been cited; the department is in the process of forwarding the revised proposal to the Senate Office. Goldberg made a motion to approve pending receipt of revisions; Lamb seconded the motion.

The Proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.05, Proposal from the College of Business to Terminate the Teacher Education Minor in Economics

After a short discussion, Goldberg made a motion for approval, Lamb seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.
EP.07.08, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts Requesting the Establishment of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Architectural Studies

Geil noted some discrepancies in degree numbering; he will contact the sponsor, Robert Selby, for clarification.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.03, Proposal from the College of Business to establish a Graduate Minor in Finance in the Department of Finance

The latest revisions of this proposal were distributed at the door; it was noted that a new signature page is forthcoming. Goldberg made a motion to approve; Watkin seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.07.06, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the Formation of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment

The Chair asked Lucy Rich to notify the LAS College Office that the Committee approved of the date of the Public Hearing so that they may begin publicizing the event. Zych asked if the three groups mentioned in the proposals should be asked for input as to class overlap.

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

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)

Kuntz suggested that this proposal be dropped from the agenda as we have not heard back from the department since the proposal was returned to them on January 30, 2006.

VI. Other Business and Adjournment

The Chair thanked the subcommittees and its chairs for their hard work and prompt action of its work load. He also reminded them to always copy the College representatives on any proposal communications.

Chair Aminmansour announced that the Global Campus Task Force of which Faye Lesht is co-chair has scheduled a Forum for Monday, October 16, 2006 from 9-11:00 a.m. He has been asked if the EPC will express an opinion on the issue; the University Senates Conference (USC) has expressed concerns and the SEC plans to draft a resolution requesting that action be delayed until the issue may be reviewed thoroughly. Lesht reported that there is a lot of commonality of concerns in the documentation that the Task Force has produced. Aminmansour announced that this issue will be on next week’s meeting agenda to discuss our concerns; he pointed out that the Committee does have a vested interest as it will have an impact on our reputation. He reminded members to mark their calendars on October 16 for the Forum of the Global Campus Task Force.

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