Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, October 16, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Stephen Boppart, Jo Duchene (ex officio), Joseph Goldberg, David Kovacic, 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, Cheston Brauer, Avantika Gupta, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Brian Pierce, Leslie Struble, Daniel Walsh

Guests: Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Peter Nardulli, Director of the Center for Democratic Government, Political Science; James Nowlan, Director of Civic Leadership, Political Science

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 approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2006 will be held over until the next meeting.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour thought that this morning’s meeting on the Global Campus Initiative, the plan to offer online learning programs, was very well done.

III. New Business

Review and discussion of the four Leadership proposals (EP.07.09, EP.07.10, EP.07.11, EP.07.12); College representatives were available for questions

Peter Nardulli reported that the Civic Leadership Program, of which they are continually designing and redesigning, was started ten years ago. (Nardulli distributed copies of Civic Leadership Today, Inaugural Edition—Fall 2006.) This is currently the third class of leadership fellows, and yet there is no degree program. As part of the leadership program, students have traveled to Chicago, Mexico City and Washington, DC to talk politics. Mester noted that initial discussions concluded that it would be advantageous to incorporate the leadership programs into four separate proposals. She pointed out that what seems like an overlap in 400 level courses actually reflects the fact that some political science courses are not offered every semester. In response to Geil’s inquiry that a student must apply to the Graduate College, Nardulli explained that they are investing a lot of money in each student as internship is expensive; they must apply to the Graduate College in order to continue in the program. Once a student takes one of the leadership slots, administrators anticipate that they will complete the whole program.

EP.07.09, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish an Undergraduate Civic Leadership Minor in Political Science

Mester reported that there should only be a maximum of 20 students in the program per year. She clarified many concerns including the range of hours required, 21-24 hours. It is an undergraduate minor for those coming in as juniors; graduate students go directly into the Masters Degree; the bulk of the minor has to be taken outside of the major. Mester noted that the College of LAS wants this program to be open to students in other colleges. Malmgren said she viewed this proposal from the implementation standpoint and thought it to be a fantastic program. Bode inquired as to minor versus certificate. Marshall pointed out that the University does not generally present certificates except for Certificates of Aviation and Accountancy.

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

Geil pointed out that the proposal is missing the Course of Study. Mester remarked that it is merely a schematic between the Colleges of LAS and Law; however, she will provide the Committee with a copy. There are still some mechanics to be worked out; also, the signature page does not include a signature from the 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

Geil referred to the 12-hour requirement, and suggested that it specify a maximum of 12 hours.

EP.07.12, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requesting the establishment of a Civic Leadership Program in Political Science

Geil asked what might happen if funding suddenly disappears.
Nardulli reported that such circumstances might require cutting back on student travel; however, only as a last resort as they understand the importance of enlightened informed leadership. He also pointed out that the program has been very well received as far as funding; an alumnus has provided an endowment and is very committed to the program.

Subcommittee A

EP.07.09, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish an Undergraduate Civic Leadership Minor in Political Science  See above.

EP.07.13, Proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to Revise the Masters of Science Degree in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism  Bode reported that he had not received any concerns on this proposal except for minor errors in the cover letters. He made a motion for approval; Watkin seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate pending receipt of revised letters from the Provost and Graduate College.

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  See above.

EP.07.14, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts requesting a Joint Degree Option in Master of Urban Planning  Geil reported that his biggest concern was the open-ended degree concept and questioned who in the Graduate College would approve the courses. Marshall reported that it was thought to have been approved three years ago, but had somehow temporarily ceased to exist. Lamb thought the advising of such an option would require a lot of time. The Committee members agreed that someone from the sponsoring department should be invited to the next meeting to clarify the guidelines.

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  See above.

EP.07.15, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts requesting realignment and consolidation of doctoral degrees in Music Education  Geil thought this proposal to be straightforward and noted that it does include letters of endorsement. Watkin moved for approval; Geil seconded that motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

IV. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences  Copies of the latest revisions of this proposal were distributed at the door.

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

EP.07.06, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the Formation of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment (Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 3:45 p.m., 1080 Foreign Language Building—Lucy Ellis Lounge.)

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

VI. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Approved as written.