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

Malmgren suggested some editorial changes to the Minutes of November 6, 2006; they were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reported that the Senate Global Campus Task Force had met on November 15 with President White and Chet Gardner, Special Assistant to the President, to share its concerns. He thought that President White had taken the concerns of the Task Force quite seriously; White has suggested holding a Retreat for that purpose as he would like to see his Plan forwarded to the Board of Trustees in January. The Chair announced that the Global Campus Task Force Report will be forwarded to the Senate for a vote on December 4. Also, a Global Campus Workshop will be held on December 6; Chet Gardner has invited representatives from all three campuses.

Aminmansour noted that inasmuch as the Global Campus has been found to be a good idea in general, there are concerns that as it stands it may not meet the same quality of education as an on-campus education and could ultimately damage the University’s current reputation. Berfield reported that a Town Hall meeting for students with questions on the Global Campus will be held on November 30. Duchene opined that the Global Campus Plan appears more as a vision where an enormous amount of infrastructure is required and implementation is lacking.

III. Old Business

Review and discussion of the four Leadership proposals

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

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

Chair Aminmansour reported that he and the subcommittee chairs had met recently with Ann Mester and Peter Nardulli regarding the four proposals; ultimately, the sponsor decided to withdraw the Minor (EP.07.09). Accordingly, it is imperative that the remaining three proposals be revised to reflect its withdrawal. Aminmansour asked Lucy Rich to send confirmation of this by e-mail for the Committee’s records.

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A
EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences  Zych thought the Statement for the Bulletin to be very broad. The Committee agreed to table this proposal until receipt of more information.

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

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  Zych suggested a revision to the Program of Study Statement; he thought it should read “no fewer than 40 additional hours” in that program. Also, the term “unit” should be withdrawn. The Chair pointed out that the department was under the impression that this program had already been approved in 2003. The members shared concerns that this program is too open-ended. Marshall said he was somewhat supportive of an open-ended proposal as he thought there should be programs available to students to fill their specific interests and needs. Lamb thought this program would require huge resources for advising and was concerned about setting a precedent; she suggested that the program might be approved conditional that it be reviewed again at the end of 5-years. Marshall injected that he was leery of reviewing a proposal on a recurring basis; if the committee does nothing in 5-years then the program would end. After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the proposal revised as of November 20, 2006 including today’s suggested revisions be approved.

The proposal was approved to forward to the Senate. Tappenden abstained from voting citing her affiliation with the Graduate College as a conflict of interest.

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.

IV. New Business

EP.07.16, Revised Guidelines for Undergraduate Minors  Zych asked that discussion of this proposal be held until after he and Lucy Rich have had an opportunity to revise these guidelines. The Committee held a short discussion at which time Geil pointed out that he teaches courses in a Polymer Science minor that takes hours from different departments and thought there should be more flexibility.

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

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

VI. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy