Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, February 4, 2008

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Phillip Geil, Natasha Jankowski, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Carol Malmgren (observer), John Marden, Sarah Projansky, Mary Ramsbottom (ex officio), Chris Roegge (ex officio), Mark Rood, Kelly Tappenden, Laird Thompson, Kevin Waspé

Absent: Jeffrey Brawn, Ted Dimiropoulos, Gregory Hart, David Kovacic, Susan Lamb, Keith Marshall (ex officio), Michael Perkins, Kenneth Watkin, Peg Wherry (ex officio)

Guests: Mark David, Professor and Interim Associate Head, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, ACES; Faye Dong, Head, Food Science & Human Nutrition, ACES; Fred Kolb, Professor, Crop Sciences, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, ACES; Laurie Kramer, Associate Dean, Academic Programs, ACES Administration; Carol Livingstone, Associate Provost for Management Information; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Lucy Rich, Assistant Dean, LAS Administration; Jurgen Scheffran, Associate Adjunct Professor, Political Science, International Programs & Studies; Kevin Sightler, Visiting Director, Professional Science Master, Graduate Administration; Richard Wheeler, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate College; Bryan White, Professor, Animal Sciences, ACES

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. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of January 28, 2008 were approved as distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

No remarks were given.

III. Reports from the Provost’s Office and Graduate College

On behalf of the Provost’s office, Kuntz reported that the Colleges of LAS and ENGR have requested administrative approval for the following changes:

College of LAS — Revision to the Undergraduate Minor in Mathematics

Add Math 284 to list of courses in ‘analysis’ that student may select from and change Math 385 and 386 to reflect the recent renumbering to Math 285 and 286.

College of ENGR — Revision to the Engineering Mechanics Curriculum

Replace Math 347 with Math 442; the MechSE Undergraduate Programs Committee has determined that an introductory course in partial differential equations will prepare Engineering Mechanics students better for advanced coursework in mechanics.

Tappenden reported that the Graduate College has forwarded several new proposals to the Provost’s office that will soon come before this committee. She noted that several guests were present to discuss the three new Graduate College proposals written in accordance with the Illinois PSM (Professional Science Master’s) Initiative. Tappenden also answered some questions that had arisen last week in regard to EP.08.34 as to graduate minors.

Chair Aminmansour reminded members that the Public Hearing related to proposals EP.08.29 and EP.08.30 has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 26, location to be announced. He encouraged all members to attend as any information gleaned from the Hearing is very important to the review process.

IV. New Business

EP.08.38, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a Professional Science Master’s graduate concentration; EP.08.39, Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of ACES to establish a Master of Science in Agricultural Production; and EP.08.40, Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of ACES to establish a Master of Science in Bioenergy

Dean Wheeler hoped that members had reviewed the umbrella proposal (EP.08.38) that has grown out of the Sloan Foundation with some help from the Ford Foundation. As part of the Illinois PSM Initiative, the program will provide Masters level expertise to service industry in this country. The Goals are for a cross discipline Masters level education strong in a science discipline providing students with an introduction to the corporate environment. It has been treated as a concentration to be administratively expedient with an emphasis on science; students will have a sense of both sides of the fence—research and business. Geil and Bode questioned the name; Wheeler
noted that the program has been planned around the specifications of the Sloan Grant. The Chair referred to the first page of the proposal and said he would like to see it be more inclusive. Wheeler explained that it is a very demanding program and that they have tried to keep within the public university range. Sightler apprised members of the three proposals, one general and two that are more specific, noting that they are for working professionals with several years of work experience behind them. In response to Mester’s request for clarification of the admission process, Sightler explained that the Graduate College will administer per the directives of the Illinois PSM Initiative. Wheeler noted that distribution of the funds could prove to be a challenge. However, part of the appeal is that it gives an opportunity to address State and regional needs; students will be distributed in origins and destinations as well.

In regard to EP.08.39, Kramer responded to Geil’s inquiry confirming that a steering committee would be appointed. Aminmansour suggested that a signature line be provided for the Director of the program. Bode asked if the budget had been worked out for the administrative level. The Chair thought there should be letters from the various department allowing students to take their courses.

After the guests left the meeting, the members held a discussion of the proposals. Although Bode found them plausible, he noted several discrepancies; even with a certain level of trust he questioned if these programs could actually start in the fall. Mester said she would like to see course proposals as none of the courses mentioned presently exist. She also thought reference to actual tuition dollars should be removed; although this information is necessary for IBHE approval, it is not relevant for Senate approval. Geil moved approval of all three proposals according to various changes discussed and inclusion of letters of support from the various departments offering coursework. Bode seconded the motion.

The proposals were unanimously approved to forward to the Senate pending receipt of revisions.

V. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.08.26, Proposal from the College of Business’ Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship The subcommittee is awaiting revisions from the department.

EP.08.32, Revise the Joint Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Masters of Public Health (MPH) Program, College of VMED and UIC School of Public Health Bode reported that this proposal was approved at the last meeting; however, although he supports changes by the department, he found them to change the proposal drastically. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senate on February 25 as revised.

EP.08.34, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a graduate minor in Information Technology and Control Bode reported that the requested revisions were received; consequently, he made a motion for approval. The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.08.35, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish a concentration in Analytics in the Master’s Degree in Statistics The Subcommittee is awaiting a copy of the letter noting financial support by State Farm Insurance Company.

Subcommittee B

EP.08.31, Establish the Center for Human Resource Management (CHRM), Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations (ILIR) and the College of Business UIUC and the College of Business Administration UIC The subcommittee is awaiting revisions.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.37, Establish a minor in Agricultural Safety and Health, College of ACES This proposal was not discussed.

VI. Pending Items

EP.08.29, Reorganize the African American Studies and Research Program to the Department of African American Studies, College of LAS

EP.08.30, Reorganize the Program for the Study of Religion to the Department of Religion, College of LAS

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.