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Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, October 8, 2007

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Jeffrey Brawn, Phillip Geil, Andrew Hamilton, Gregory Hart, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, John Marden, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio), Sarah Projansky, Chris Roegge (ex officio), Mark Rood, Kelly Tappenden, Kevin Waspi, Peg Wherry (ex officio)

Absent: Ted Dimiropoulos, Michael Perkins, Mary Ramsbottom (ex officio), Ryan Robinson, Laird Thompson, Kenneth Watkin

Guests: Belden Fields, Professor Emeritus, Political Science; Jo Duchene, Executive Assistant Dean, BUS Administration; Scott Johnson, Professor and Head, Department of Human Resource Education; Peter Kuchinke, Associate Professor, Human Resource Education; Carol Livingstone, Associate Provost for Management Information; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Richard Wheeler, Vice Provost & Dean of the Graduate College

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 Minutes of October 1, 2007 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Kuntz reported that the Provost’s office has just received the proposal from the College of Communications for its name change. Chair Aminmansour noted that he had recently sent an e-mail to committee members containing a draft of the Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees prepared by Kelly Tappenden and her Task Force. He thanked everyone for their hard work in this process; the Guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting.

III. Old Business

EP.06.32, Proposed guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218), letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference See Item II.

Discussion of the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund The Chair noted that Belden Fields was in attendance today to discuss the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund (the Fund) as he had taken a resolution to the Senate on October 1, 2007. Aminmansour reported that he had just come from a meeting of the Policy Committee of AAUP (American Associate of University Professors) whereby he had read a draft Resolution (handout) on this issue and received support for it from the group. The Chair read his latest draft and noted that it had taken quite an evolution. He thanked Professor Fields for bringing this issue to the attention of the Senate. He noted that there has been an extensive amount of debate over the level of control the fund will have on University matters.

Fields said he was disappointed that Aminmansour had shared this draft resolution with the AAUP and was of the opinion that his major ideas had been stripped from this draft resolution. He stressed that the resolution should require a change in name of the Fund and that there should be no political or ideological litmus tests attached to the recruitment of faculty or grants from the funds. Aminmansour apologized for any misunderstanding and stated that indeed his message to the EPC which was shared with Professor Fields indicated that he would share his draft with a few people. He noted that he did not want the draft widely distributed because of potential misunderstanding of its contents before it is discussed at the Committee meeting.

Aminmansour addressed why two of Professor Fields’ main points were missing from the latest version of the draft resolution. He pointed out that he felt it would be best if the resolution did not request a name change for the Fund until more fundamental issues are discussed and sorted out. He also noted that he felt
we should not specifically point out the issue of ideological litmus tests in the resolution directly. The issue, he added, can be addressed in more subtle ways elsewhere in the resolution.

Bode pointed out that the ILIR (Institute of Labor & Industrial Relations) was founded on this same principle and claim to do the same things the Fund claims to want to do in their own field; he felt that the issue did not have anything to do with shared governance. Geil agreed with Bode. Aminmansour noted that the key is that everyone should follow recognized policies and procedures for establishing courses, curricula, hiring of faculty, etc. Lamb said she supports the draft proposal and thought a miscommunication had gone out to the public that needs to be rectified. Fields said he thought it alarming that the University was not willing to share the entire agreement with the public unless the Academy was in agreement. He also said he could not dismiss what the Academy has alleged on its own Web site.

Chair Aminmansour said he had hoped to come to some sort of agreement with Professor Fields on this resolution so that he could present it to the Senate Executive Committee at its meeting on October 15 and then to the Senate in November. Geil said he would like to see a statement from the University admitting that it has acted in a rash manner. Aminmansour said if some members of the Committee feel a resolution is not necessary, that is fine with him and that he can discuss the resolution with professor Fields and the Senate Executive Committee later for their consideration and/or possible endorsement. Bode thanked the Chair on behalf of the Committee for his efforts in moving forward on this resolution.

IV. New Business

Per Recommendation of the Sixth Senate Review Commission, Self-Review of the Educational Policy Committee as to a review of its charge, its operations, staffing, and titles to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate. Chair Aminmansour asked members if they knew of any ways to improve how the committee operates. He reported that he has been asked if there could be a mechanism to check the status of their proposal at any time since it leaves the sponsoring academic unit until it goes through the entire approval process. Kuntz reported that the Provost’s Web site does have a spreadsheet that illustrates the timeline for the review of proposals for part of the review process. Another suggestion was made that the Committee distribute all proposals to members electronically and forgo hard copies altogether. Kuntz pointed out that her office currently forwards not only hard copies of each proposal to the Secretary, but also a PDF file; therefore, she thought it possible to send electronic versions of proposals to committee members.

Subcommittee A

EP.08.10, Establish a graduate concentration in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in the MS in Bioinformatics, College of LAS Bode reported that this proposal is basically making an existing option into a concentration and made a motion for approval. Geil seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.08.15, Revision of the Scandinavian Studies Concentration of the Major in Sciences & Letters Curriculum in German, College of LAS This proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

Subcommittee B

EP.08.12, Proposal from the Graduate College to establish three concentrations (Human Resource Development; Community Teaching and Learning; and eLearning) in the Ed.M. in Human Resource Education Geil suggested that he meet with the HRE representatives to discuss our questions prior to the committee discussion. Dick Wheeler reported that the GCEC (Graduate College Executive Committee) has two distinct concerns. The GCEC expressed concerns regarding the lack of resource implications currently noted in the proposal because this would certainly depend upon the student enrollment achieved via the Global Campus; he thought it preposterous that this new program would not have financial implications. The GCEC approved this proposal on the stipulation that the Department define all financial implications. Further, the GCEC also strongly recommends that completion of the eLearning concentration include a notation on the student transcript indicating completion of this concentration occurred via the Global Campus. Basically, an easy solution is a function in Banner that identifies the campus (i.e. Global Campus Urbana). Sample transcripts were passed around the table for viewing. Aminmansour asked Tappenden and Wheeler if they would be willing to submit a proposal to the EPC for
adding this notation on students’ transcripts. The Graduate College agreed to do so with assistance from the registrar’s office.

EP.08.13, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Biomolecular Engineering, College of LAS and EP.08.14, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in American Indian Studies, College of LAS The above proposals will be discussed at the next meeting.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.11, Establish a graduate concentration in Writing Studies, College of LAS and EP.08.16, Revision of the Integrative Biology Concentration of the Major in Sciences & Letters Curriculum in Integrative Biology, College of LAS The above proposals will be discussed at the next meeting.

Executive Session — EPC Committee members only

Review of the “University of Illinois Global Campus Program Development and Support Agreement” This issue to be discussed at a later date.

V. Pending Items (Waiting to hear from sponsors.)

EP.08.05, Proposal to request the merger of the Division of English as an International Language and the Department of Linguistics into a newly configured Department of Linguistics, College of LAS A Public Hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., in 217 Noyes Lab.

VI. Adjournment

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

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy