Approved as written.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, October 15, 2007

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Phillip Geil, Gregory Hart, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, Mary Lowry (ex officio designee), John Marden, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio), Michael Perkins, Sarah Projansky, Mary Ramsbottom (ex officio), Chris Roegge (ex officio), Mark Rood, Laird Thompson, Kevin Waspi, Peg Wherry (ex officio)

Absent: Jeffrey Brawn, Ted Dimiropoulos, Andrew Hamilton, Ryan Robinson, Kelly Tappenden, Kenneth Watkin

Guests: Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Richard Wheeler, Vice Provost and 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 distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

The Chair reminded members of the Public Hearing scheduled for a week from tomorrow, October 23, 2007 in room 217 Noyes Lab to foster discussion of the merging of the Division of English as an International Language and the Department of Linguistics into a newly configured Department of Linguistics, College of LAS (EP.08.05). Aminmansour also noted that at our next meeting (Monday, October 22) we will be discussing the draft guidelines on multi-institutional degrees; he asked that members forward any revisions to Kelly Tappenden by Wednesday so she may make any changes in time to finalize the Guidelines on the 22nd.

Kuntz addressed a recent query to consider a mechanism to check the status of EPC proposals. Her office is presently exploring two possibilities that of a basic Web site or something more elaborate such as Wiki, a computer interface that allows users to easily edit and create documents. After a short discussion, members thought it appropriate to share electronic versions of proposals for now and work towards a Wiki site.

Aminmansour reported that he had received both an e-mail and a phone call from Professor Belden Fields apologizing for his misunderstanding and reaction at the last meeting during discussion of a Resolution on the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund; the Chair noted that the Resolution is now in Fields’ hands.

Lamb shared concerns that as a potential course reviewer, either for ILIR (Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations) or for Bioinformatics, she felt uncomfortable with this new process. Marshall explained the review for the proper level of writing, proper level of assessment, etc. It was noted that these concerns will be addressed at a later date.

The Chair welcomed Gregory Hart as the newest member of the committee and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

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 Dean Tappenden will lead a discussion of the revised Guidelines at the next meeting.

Subcommittee A

EP 08.15, Revision of the Scandinavian Studies Concentration of the Major in Sciences & Letters Curriculum in German, College of LAS Bode suggested the following changes:
Page 1, Brief Description should be changed to:  1. a) Language courses (11-12 credit hours). Also, 1. c) 300- or 400-level course (12-13 credit hours). Set up a different SCAN course other than SCAN 496 (e.g. SCAN 494 – Advanced Scandinavian) in place of SCAN 496. As it now exists, this is very confusing to the students. Change the wording to reflect this change.

The current Program of Study statement now indicates: “minimum required major and supporting course work normally equates to 45-57 hours with at least 30 hours in German.” This is not true for this concentration. It was suggested to change that statement to add “… with at least 30 hours in German except for the concentration in Scandinavian Studies.” To do that, I suggest you add a number 3 paragraph under “Brief Description” indicating that is part of the proposal. Then on page 3 make that addition to the POS statement.

On page 4 in the table, change 11 to 11-12 and 13 to 12-13. Then before the 21 - Supporting coursework statement, add a new row indicating 30 Total Hours. This makes the required 30 hours required by the college very clear.”

Pending receipt of revisions from the College of LAS, the proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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 reported that he was happy with the recent changes resulting from questions he had raised with Professor Scott Johnson regarding this proposal. After a short discussion, the Committee thought it important that a proposal to annotate Urbana degree programs earned via the Global Campus on the Student’s academic transcript also be forwarded to the Senate. Dean Wheeler reported that he had attended a recent CEEED meeting where Charlie Evans was in attendance; Evans was agreeable to the transcript changes and did not foresee any problems. Wheeler noted that this is an alternative means of delivering an existing degree; however, the rules of governing will not be the same. He thought it important that we look at the delivery method.

The Chair asked Dean Wheeler what the Committee should look for in its review of the “University of Illinois Global Campus Program Development and Support Agreement” to be discussed later in the meeting. Wheeler said approving any document is a matter of trust as the Department will do the hiring and admitting. It will not be a competitive admissions process; if a student meets the requirements, they are admitted. Geil recommended approval of the proposal with the requirement of inclusion of transcript notation as discussed before. The Chair stated that he will attach a letter to the proposal when it goes to the senate stating this condition for approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate. (See Item IV.)

EP.08.13, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Biomolecular Engineering, College of LAS  Geil reported that the current options have been rewritten as concentrations; he has questions regarding courses 471-474 and will discuss possible changes with Dean Mester.

EP.08.14, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in American Indian Studies, College of LAS  Geil said he had no concerns with this proposal and moved approval; Kovacic seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.11, Establish a graduate concentration in Writing Studies, College of LAS  Lamb thought the proposal was straight-forward and noted that apparently the department has had success with the program; Waspi seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.08.16, Revision of the Integrative Biology Concentration of the Major in Sciences & Letters Curriculum in Integrative Biology, College of LAS  The Subcommittee has not finished reviewing.
Executive Session — EPC Committee members only

Review of the “University of Illinois Global Campus Program Development and Support Agreement”

IV. New Business

RETRACT APPROVAL — 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 Committee members shared concerns over the earlier approval (Item III) of this proposal brought about by uncertainties of the “Support Agreement” that was discussed in Executive Session. As the Agreement is dated June 29, 2007, questions arose as to whether or not there could be a later version; also, whether or not the proposal should include signatures of the Deans of the Graduate College. Aminmansour said he would contact Chet Gardner for the latest revisions of the “Support Agreement.” Geil made a motion to withdraw approval of this proposal; Lamb seconded the motion.

The recommendation to withdraw previous approval of this proposal was unanimously approved.

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