Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Jeffrey Brawn, Phillip Geil, Natasha Jankowski, David Kovacic, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, John Marden, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio), Sarah Projansky, Mary Ramsbottom (ex officio), Mark Rood, Kevin Waspi, Peg Wherry (ex officio), Chet Zych (ex officio designee)

Absent: Ted Dimiropoulos, Gregory Hart, Michael Perkins, Ryan Robinson, Kelly Tappenden, Laird Thompson, Kenneth Watkin

Guests: Robert Graves, Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts; Walter Harrington, Head, Department of Journalism, College of COMM; Carol Livingstone, Associate Provost for Management Information; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Lucy Rich, Assistant Dean, LAS Administration; Teresa Savage, Associate Dean, COMM Administration; Ronald Yates, Dean, College of COMM; Carole Palmer, Director of Library & Information 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 Minutes of October 22, 2007 were approved as distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

The Chair announced that this meeting would be the last opportunity to approve any items for the Senate agenda of December 3. He said he was frankly disappointed that two proposals (EP.08.08 and EP.0814) were returned to our committee by the Senate at its meeting on November 5; he hoped to rectify the situation by returning them to the next Senate meeting. Aminmansour reported that he had recently asked Kristi Kuntz and Kelly Tappenden if he could add an additional standing item to the agenda whereby they could share any information on behalf of the Office of the Provost and the Graduate College respectively. He added that they both have agreed to do so.

Kuntz reported on two items requesting administrative approval.

- LAS – BSLAS in Molecular and Cellular Biology
  They are seeking to:
  1) Increase the distinction requirement from 3.0 to 3.25
  2) Change “At least four additional courses at the 200- to 400- level are also required, including one laboratory course” to “At least four additional courses at the 300- to 400- level from the Approved List of Advanced Courses for MCB Majors are also required, including one lab course.”
  3) Add “In addition, undergraduate research (MCB 290 or departmental equivalent) is strongly recommended for students planning to go to graduate school. No more than 10 hours of MCB 290 or departmental equivalent credit may be counted for a degree in MCB.”

- ACES – BS in Agricultural and Environmental Communications and Education
  Current requirement for all AECE majors:
  AGED 220
  AGCM 110
  RSOC 110
  1) For students completing the Communications concentration, delete AGED 220 from the list of three required courses.
  2) For students completing the Agricultural Leadership Education or the Agricultural Education concentrations, delete AGCM 110 from the list of three required courses.

In both cases, this increases the number of free electives for students. The proposed changes reflect the increasing need for AECE faculty to tailor subject matter of the introductory courses AGCM 110 and AGED 220 more toward the disciplinary and vocational interests of the students in the specific (and diverging) subsets of the AECE concentrations.
III. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.08.08, Proposal from the Graduate College to rename the Library Research Center to the Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS) in the Graduate School of Library & Information Science  Carole Palmer reported that she had not received comments from Mary Mallory since Mallory expressed concerns at the November 5 Senate meeting about the proposed name. Palmer noted that any name that might be offered has most likely already been discussed; she went on to explain how they arrived at the new name. She thought it important to omit “Library” as the Center’s constituents cover a broader range; she considers it a new scope of focus. Aminmansour pointed out that the EPC is not in a position to impose a name to the sponsor. Bode recommended approval of the proposal as originally submitted; Lamb seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B

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 was held on October 23, 2007 at which time there were no concerns expressed. Aminmansour referred to a confidential memo (distributed among Committee members at the meeting) expressing concerns related to the merger; the Chair apologized that it had not been distributed in a more timely manner. Committee members read through the letter at the meeting. Aminmansour asked Committee members if they wished to have more time to consider the contents of the memo before further discussions. The Committee felt that there was no need for additional time and that they were ready to vote on a recommendation to the Senate. Bode made a motion for approval of the proposal; Lamb seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.08.14, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in American Indian Studies, College of LAS  Geil reported that the question regarding Library resources has been answered. Aminmansour stated in reference to the comment at the Senate meeting of November 5 that he believes EPC is not in a position to criticize research methodologies applied by units. Geil recommended approval with some minor revisions. Lamb seconded the motion.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

IV. New Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.08.17, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Sub Saharan African Languages (SSAL), College of LAS  Bode reported that he had sent recent revisions to his subcommittee as there were changes in wording regarding language requirements; as they had accepted the changes he recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate

EP.08.18, Establish an Undergraduate Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum in African American Studies, College of LAS  Bode reported that the Subcommittee had some questions, but these have been qualified by the sponsor; therefore, he recommended approval as revised. Projansky inquired as to any implications to the Library. The Chair pointed out that all proposals are sent to the Library for review of necessary Library resources and that unless we hear back from them, we will assume that there are no concerns from the Library. He added that this procedure has been made clear to the Library before. Kuntz reported that notification to the Library is now coming from the Provost’s office rather than the Senate to allow for more lead time. The Provost’s office is encouraging dialogue with the Library as to what the expectations are; the EPC must have a competent sense that these problems are being addressed. Aminmansour asked Kuntz to please check with the Library on this particular proposal so that we can forward it to the Senate in a timely manner.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.21, Proposal from the College of Communications to rename the College of Communications as the College of Media Arts and Sciences  Lamb reported that it appears that opinions are split on this issue. She added that the
new name may cause some confusion among current and prospective students. However, she and her subcommittee recommended approval. Dean Graves reported that the College of Fine and Applied Arts has a program in Media Arts (film and video) and could see where there might be some confusion between this and the new name being put forward by the College of Communications. Dean Yates thought his College had been somewhat placed in the position to change its name because of the Department of Communication. He feels that the name reflects the new world; most colleges are dropping the word “mass” because of the current use of cell phones, iPods, BlackBerrys, etc. The College of COMM had solicited names from thousands of alumni which resulted in 200 suggested names; this was eventually narrowed to 18. From the list, the name College of Media Arts and Sciences was unanimously approved; the College feels that it defines what they are all about as it brings Cinema Studies into the College. Yates gave a little history of the College: it originated as the School of Journalism in 1927 and was named the College of Communications in 1968.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

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

VI. Adjournment

The Chair said he wanted to go on record that there had been statements made by some that the College of Communications was told or put in a place to change its name. He said that such comments are unfortunate and inaccurate. He added that he understands that the name change was willingly agreed upon by the College.

Kuntz noted that she had just distributed a new proposal for review, EP.08.22, request to revise the B.S. in Elementary Education from the College of Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
 Senate Committee on Educational Policy