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 the meeting of February 9, 2009 were approved as distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Chair Aminmansour referred to the Grade Replacement Policy that had been drafted by the CCG (Conference on Conduct Governance) and forwarded to the EPC last week for review. He noted that revisions include: 1) a time limit on changing a grade and 2) any grades received as a result of infractions of academic integrity violations can not be replaced. Rich pointed out that this document was originally proposed by the Associate Deans and asked for time for the deans group to review and comment on the changes. Committee agreed. Michael questioned the meaning of item 1(e): The course taken for grade replacement must be taken during the next three semesters including the summer term. The Chair asked Dean Rich to work with the CCG on the issues raised and report back to EPC.

The Chair referred to the handout, a revised version of the Senate Standing Rule 13, “Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or renaming of Units” and walked members through its contents. After a short discussion, the Committee unanimously approved the draft for submission to the USSP (Senate committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures).

Aminmansour reported that an article in yesterday’s News-Gazette and recent remarks by Nicholas Burbules at the February 23 Senate meeting indicated concerns related to the Global Campus, the University of Illinois' online education initiative. Faculty members have raised a number of concerns as the University pursues accreditation for the entity that could one day award its own degrees. In preparation for independent accreditation, Global Campus officials have created a new Academic Policy Council. The members of this new council have drafted a constitution and set of bylaws. That constitution is expected to be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval at its next meeting, March 11, in Urbana. The composition of this new council has sparked some debate among some faculty. Members were nominated by the heads of programs with which Global Campus has partnered; it is proposed that members will receive a financial stipend for serving. Burbules finds this to be a conflict of interest. Faculty members proposed that the Global Campus council include three additional, unpaid members from each of the three senates; however, it was met with opposition.

Chair Aminmansour reported that he had met earlier today with Nicholas Burbules (Chair, SEC), Bill Maher (Chair, USSP), and John Prussing (Chair, GUP) as Burbules has asked for input on the Global Campus prior to the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for next week. It is important that our faculty consult with their unit and college Executive Officers before committing to development and administration of programs through the Global Campus. Livingstone asked about oversight when our faculty members are teaching at another campus. The Chair thought this to be a unit issue. Livingstone also questioned how the Global Campus would be accredited when it does not fit into the Statutes.
Michael opined that no one should be paid to serve on any advisory committee. Geil noted that the Springfield campus has excellent degree programs; however, they are completely ignored.

Aminmansour reported that EP.09.50, Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine curriculum in the College of VMED was approved by the Senate last Monday, February 23. However, he had expressed concerns to the Senate related to the super courses and the fact that this proposal gives the College too much flexibility as they can easily change their curriculum by changing content of courses without Senate approval.

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

On behalf of the Provost’s Office, Kosovski reported on the following administrative changes:

Revisions to Animal Science Major – Concentration

Animal Business, Management, and Industry – added 2 courses
ANSC 206 – Horse Management
ANSC 207 – Companion Animal Biology and Care
or ANSC 250 – Companion Animals in Society

Companion, Recreational, and Laboratory – added 1 course
ANSC 250 – Companion Animals in Society

Food Animal Science – added 2 courses
ANSC 206 – Horse Management
ANSC 207 – Companion Animal Biology and Care
or ANSC 250 – Companion Animals in Society

Science, Biotechnology, and Pre-Veterinary Medicine – added 1 course
ANSC 250 – Companion Animals in Society

Forest Science Concentration

Removal of NRES 332 – Wood Utilization and Anatomy from the list of required courses for the Forest Science Concentration. The required number of credits for the concentration will remain at 17 and the number of hours required for the major will remain at 130. The three hours formerly fulfilled by NRES 332 become elective courses.

BALAS Minor in Italian

Added ITAL 490 – Italy, Modernity & Theory to the course listing to fulfill the 12 hour requirement. The addition of the course will not change the overall hour requirements for the minor.

BALAS in English Teaching Option – Removed two course options and made ENGL 200 required for all teaching majors

Removal of the two-course option involving ENGL 200 or ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 or ENGL 103 for entry level into the major and making ENGL 200 required for all teaching majors. The revision also includes the renumbering of ENGL 201 to ENGL 301. The required hours will remain the same.

BALAS in Philosophy – Removed PHIL 421 and replaced with two 400-level courses

Make three of the required 18 credits of Philosophy courses a 400-level course for a total of two 400-level courses required for the BALAS in Philosophy. No changes in total credits in Philosophy required.

Dean Tappenden reported that they are still waiting for the release of the NRC (National Research Council) survey results of its most recent assessment of doctoral programs. Also the electronic Thesis deposit is to be piloted in the fall.
IV. Vice Provost Richard Wheeler — Recommendations under consideration for changes in Tuition Waiver Policies

Dr. Wheeler reported that a group has been reviewing the Tuition Waiver Policies for some time. He noted that our policy is more generous than most universities leading some to believe that graduate education is free; conversely, it is not free, and the overall financial picture is changing. Over time tuition has become more important and we have become vulnerable to the current policy. It has become important to revise the old policy in an effort to preserve and protect the excellence of the graduate programs and also offer some flexibility.

Suggested revisions include:

- Change minimum waiver from 25 percent to 33 percent.
- Empower disciplinary deans to limit appointments; there are presently no controls whatever, and some graduate programs are larger than they should.
- Ensure that fellowships from foundations include tuition (e.g. Fulbright Scholarships).
- Start charging tuition for gift money remission; include posing a loophole.
- Develop new programs that rely on tuition they collect; current self-supporting units are DVM, MBA.

The Committee members held a discussion with Wheeler; whereby, he answered their questions and concerns.

V. Old Business

Subcommittee B

EP.09.46, Revise the BFA in Industrial Design, College of FAA  Geil reported that he had received requested revisions from the department; therefore, he recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.09.57, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of LAS to establish a BALAS-MA degree program in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  Geil noted this proposal has been revised as Dean Mester has added verbiage explaining why this is an excellent program.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

VI. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.09.64, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of LAS to establish a Graduate Minor in American Indian & Indigenous Studies  Waspi spoke in the absence of Miller and thanked Dean Mester for her help on this proposal. He suggested that the word “Revised” be removed from the top of the first page and recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approve to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee B

EP.09.62, Proposal from the College of LAS to establish an undergraduate Minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Queer Studies  Livingstone brought up the issue of the program’s title; she thought it important to avoid abbreviations and identify the correct name for use on the transcript. Dean Mester will take care of this change. Geil moved approval.

The proposal was approved to forward to the Senate (Yes: 7; No: 2).

Subcommittee C

EP.09.61, Proposal from the College of LAS to establish an undergraduate Minor in Arabic Studies  Jankowsky reported that the subcommittee found this proposal to be straightforward; therefore, she recommended approval.
The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.09.63, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of LAS to establish a Graduate Minor in African Studies Jankowsky moved approval of this proposal as written.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

VII. Pending Items

Subcommittee A

EP.08.26, Proposal from the College of Business for Entrepreneurial Leadership to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship Chair Aminmansour reported that he has heard from the proposal’s sponsor. The department had decided to omit use of the “lottery system” and to wait until all proposed courses have been approved before resubmitting the revised proposal.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy