Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, April 6, 2009

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Phillip Geil, Kaitlyn Hastings, Natasha Jankowski, Jason Kosovski (ex officio designee), Michael A. Krassa, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio), Steve Michael, Gay Y. Miller, Lucy Rich (ex officio), Mark Rood, David Strauser, Kelly Tappenden, Kevin Waspi

Absent: Bradley Bond, Jeffrey Brawn, Emily Ganschinietz, Faye Lesht (ex officio), Gary McPherson, Chris Roegge (ex officio), Amelia Wallrich

Guests: Carol Livingstone, Associate Provost for Management Information; Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration

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 the meeting of March 2, 2009 were approved as distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Chair Aminmansour presented an update on the Global Campus and noted that there have been recent articles on the topic in local papers, the Chronicle of Higher Education and the Chicago Tribune. The Senate recently approved EP.09.32 which states that Urbana-Champaign programs offered through the Global Campus should only be offered under the 2007 Partnership Agreement between the Global Campus and our three campuses. Also, the Senate sent back to SEC a resolution on potential conflicts of interest and/or commitment that might arise when Urbana faculty may engage in activities with entities outside our campus. That resolution will be revised by SEC and brought back to the Senate for a later vote. Three possible options are being explored regarding the Global Campus: keep the Global Campus as it is, discontinue the Global Campus, or change its role in online education. Apparently there are some Board of Trustees members that currently have reservations as to the Global Campus.

The Chair indicated that he had talked with the Provost and Dean of Graduate College regarding the fact that proposals for new programs in LAW and VMED are not being reviewed by the Graduate College. He was not sure how and when this step in the review process had been omitted; however, he has agreed to draft a letter to the deans of these two colleges regarding this issue. Further discussion revealed other concerns related to the level of governance. He will discuss the issue more with interested parties and report back to the Committee.

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

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

1) Revision to the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics curricula

   Addition of one course satisfying the 400-level requirement and one course to the list of Public Policy and Law Concentration

2) Revision of the minimum GPA for the BS in Architecture from 2.00 to 2.25

3) Revision of the BALAS: Biology Teacher Ed.

   Removal of IB 201 and the addition of IB 204 and 301

   Required hours in 300-400 level courses reduced from 12 to 8 and minimum hours required from 80-81 to 79-81
4) Transfer of Environmental Fellow Program from Environmental Council to the School of Earth, Society and Environment in LAS

5) Revision to the Programs of Study for the English Department Rhetoric Major

Addition of ENGL 380 Topics in Writing Studies to fulfill the 12 hours of electives in English at the 300-400 level

Dean Tappenden indicated that she had nothing new to report for the Graduate College.

IV. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

V. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.09.67, Revise the Major in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, College of ACES  Bode reported that he had some philosophical questions related to this proposal as he questioned its justification and wondered what had happened to the enrollment. Since next week is the last EPC meeting, it was decided that he should work with the sponsors towards a revised proposal for review at that meeting.

EP.09.68, Revise the BSLAS in Russian Language and Literature, College of LAS  Bode suggested that the Provost’s office supply a new cover letter as the current letter does not reflect that this proposal covers both a revision to the BALAS and the Minor in Russian Language and Literature. He also recommended several editorial changes. The Committee will discuss further at the next meeting.

EP.09.69, Revise the BSLAS in Chemistry, the BS in Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry Concentration of BS in Chemistry and Minor in Chemistry, College of LAS  Bode suggested several changes including revision to its justification and POS (Program of Study). After some discussion, Bode moved to approve as revised.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as amended.

Subcommittee B

EP.09.65, Rename the Teaching of Social Studies Concentration in the BALAS in History as the Social Science: History Teaching Concentration in the BALAS in History, College of LAS  Geil noted some discrepancies in the proposal’s POS (Program of Study) and some confusion in the course listings. This proposal will be discussed further at the next meeting.

EP.09.70, Establish a Graduate Minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, College of LAS  Geil recommended approval with some minor changes.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

EP.09.71, Establish a Graduate Minor in Religion, College of LAS  Geil questioned the 500-level coursework and whether the Library should submit a letter of support. After some discussion, it was noted that course approval is forthcoming and a letter from the Library is not needed for a minor. Geil recommended approval as submitted.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.09.66, Revise the Undergraduate Curriculum of Aerospace Engineering, College of ENGR  Jankowski recommended approval pending small editorial changes and receipt of letters of support from departments impacted by this proposal.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as revised.

EP.09.72, Establish a Joint Degree: MA in African Studies and MS in Graduate School of Library and Information Science, College of LAS and GSLIS  Kosovski noted that since this proposal is based on two existing programs, it does not require Senate approval, only BOT (Board of Trustees) approval.
EP.09.73, Discontinue the BA: Teaching of Russian from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, College of LAS  Jankowski indicated that as the subcommittee has no questions, she recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

VI. Pending Items

Subcommittee A

EP.08.26, Proposal from the College of Business for Entrepreneurial Leadership to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship  There were no updates on this proposal.

VII. Adjournment

The Chair announced that the Senate Educational Policy Committee Academic Calendar Task Group (SEPC) is scheduled to meet on April 15th from 3:30-5pm. Participants include: Abbas Aminmansour, Natasha Jankowski, Carol Malmgren, Peter Mortensen, Mary Ramsbottom, Joseph Squier and Jennifer Themanson.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy