Minutes approved as written.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, September 15, 2008

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Jeffrey Brawn, Phillip Geil, Natasha Jankowski, Michael A. Krassa, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Faye Lesht (ex officio), Mary Lowry (ex officio designee), Carol Malmgren (observer), Steve Michael, Gay Y. Miller, Lucy Rich (ex officio), Chris Roegge (ex officio), Amelia Wallrich, Kevin Waspi, Nicholas Yannelis

Absent: Casey Lewis, Keith Marshall (ex officio), Gary McPherson, Mark Rood, Jeff Schroeder, David Strauser, Kelly Tappenden, Angelica Vargas

Guests: Ann Mester, Associate Dean, LAS Administration; Max Valenciano, UG BUS

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

It was noted that the minutes did not reflect that Jeffrey Brawn was indeed present at the last meeting. The Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2008 were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Chair Aminmansour reminded members of the URL address to view current proposals under consideration providing access for committee members only. He noted that two new proposals have been received since today’s meeting agenda was sent out. Those proposals will be assigned to subcommittees and noted on the next meeting agenda.

The Chair announced that he had met this morning with Kristi Kuntz, Carol Malmgren, Mary Ramsbottom and Becky Wauthier to discuss necessary resources for implementing EP.09.12, Proposal to Adopt New Grading Policies. He also recognized that new member Gaye Miller was in attendance for the first time and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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

No reports were given.

IV. Old Business

Subcommittee A

EP.08.26, Proposal from the College of Business’ Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship  Bode reported that he had expected Laura Hollis and Dean Lawrence DeBrock to attend today’s meeting, but had received a message indicating that they would be unable to attend. Bode pointed out that this proposal has been on the EPC agenda since last fall. He noted that there are issues under discussion within the College of Business. The Committee talked about this proposal at length and shared concerns. Wallrich questioned the recommendation to cap enrollment and admit students by instituting a lottery system. She considers the University to be a wonderful place, but thinks there is some misunderstanding as to how to access its resources. Kuntz noted that this proposal is in un-chartered territory as it does not have a traditional department home. Michael voiced concerns about non-tenure-track faculty teaching courses; Yannelis thought it could be resolved with zero-time and quarter-time appointments. Aminmansour said it is up to the department to justify whether or not an instructor is qualified to teach a course.

Dean Mester said she was in agreement with Wallrich as she too does not favor the lottery. She thought there should be some intellectual way to determine admission to classes such as writing an essay to articulate why this would be a perfect fit for them instead of random selection. Geil questioned the Program of Study whereas it mentions two tracks, but there is no further mention anywhere else in the proposal. Action on the proposal was delayed until the next meeting.
Subcommittee B

EP.09.15, Proposal from the Provost’s Office requesting formal establishment of the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society (CDMS)  Kuntz reported that funding for this proposal is available; she has talked with Ruth Watkins, Vice Provost, and will share new information with the Committee in a future meeting. The Chair suggested the proposal should be reviewed based on its intellectual merits, not finances, which is not in our privy. Action on this proposal was delayed until further information has been received.

EP.09.17, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of FAA to revise the Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Art Education  Geil suggested changes to the Statement for Programs of Study and also to the Appendix A table; he recommended approval pending receipt of these changes.

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

Subcommittee C

EP.09.11, Revise the Undergraduate Major in the Sciences & Letters Curriculum in Mathematics, College of LAS  Jankowski noted that she has forwarded the latest revisions to the Committee for review; however, she still found it to be somewhat confusing. Geil suggested deleting two paragraphs starting on page 5 and continuing to the top of page 6. Jankowski recommended approval as revised.

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

EP.09.18, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of FAA to establish the Master of Education (Ed.M.) in Art Education  Jankowski noted that like EP.09.17, this proposal also needs revision to the Statement for Programs of Study and the degree page (Appendix A) needs to be shortened. She recommended approval pending receipt of such revisions from the department.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

V. New Business

Kuntz reported that the Provost’s office thinks it is advisable to review the use of concentrations with the honors designation; she encouraged the EPC to assign a subcommittee to review this issue and establish some guidelines. The Chair asked for volunteers; Brawn suggested John Cheeseman to serve.

VI. Pending Items

Subcommittee A

EP.09.01, Proposal from the Colleges of MEDIA and LAS to Merge the Unit for Cinema Studies (LAS) and Program in Media Studies (MEDIA) into the Department of Media & Cinema Studies in the College of Media  (Discussion on hold until after Public Hearing scheduled for October 1, 2008.)

Subcommittee C

EP.09.20, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of LAS to redesignate the Ph.D. in Speech Communication as the Ph.D. in Communication  Jankowski said she has contacted ICR (Institute for Communications Research) regarding a decision on their degree name change. ICR is presently in discussions and has asked that we hold for their response. The Chair noted that Subcommittee Chair Jankowski has given ICR has a month to notify this committee of any comments it may have on the proposal.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.