UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, March 26, 2018
MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Ray Benekohal, David Huang, Kathryn LaBarre, Randy McCarthy, Eric Meyer, Steve Michael, Nolan Miller, Linda Moorhouse, Rahul Raju, and Ann Reisner
Ex officio: Michel Bellini, John Hart, Kathy Martensen, and Linda Robbennolt

Absent: Cynthia Buckley, Samantha Frost (excused), Phoebe Handler, Andrianna Kurzenberger, Theo Moton, Amanda Yuile
Ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Dan Mann

Guests: Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost & Director; Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean of LAS; Meghan Hazen, Registrar; Allison McKinney, Director of Graduate Programs & Policy; Kristin Bouton, Co-Director, Intensive English Institute

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, March 26, 2018, in room 232 of the English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
Guest introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
The approval of the March 12, 2018, meeting minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

3. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)

Chair Miller spoke about the Land-Grant Mission and Public Contract statement that was passed at the last Senate meeting. The SEC took jurisdiction over the document right after the last Ed Pol meeting, so there was no opportunity to edit it; but still the EPC discussion and voting to support it was important. It can be valuable to continue to provide input on the needs of Higher Education and funding when/if we think we can have even a small influence. The EPC statement has been sent to all Illinois legislators and the IBHE. Also, IPAC has been adopted by NIU as of 3-14-18 and new legislation that relates was put forward on 03-22-18. Success stories about our graduates are not only great to see, but also perhaps helps garner support for HE funding. We see improved salaries and placement rates for our graduates, and 70% of them stay in Illinois and become taxpayers—another reason for our state to support Higher Ed funding.

There was considerable discussion at the Senate about the new budget model. She hopes we will have some time to discuss this new model; the white paper where feedback is requested can be found at: https://provost.illinois.edu/budget/budget-reform/integrated-value-centered-budgeting/

The News Gazette carried front-page articles in recent weeks describing the Discovery Partners Institute and the Illinois Innovation Network (so called DPI and IIN will be a Chicago Silicon Valley). The SEC received a briefing on DPI during a meeting with President Killeen in January, and the USC also received briefings and have had discussions about DPI. The DPI Hub is to be located in Chicago; the University of Illinois will provide the brains/talent and many students and faculty will be engaged. There are concerns about funding. Governor Rauner pledged $500 million and said “the state should be participating significantly to invest in the U of I.” Will the funding for DPI indeed be viewed as U of I funding and detract from what the State provides for funding needed on this campus? Seidel said the
deans are a little nervous because of the potential of DPI to capture donor dollars in fundraising possibly detracting from projects needed here on campus. In January the UI Board of Trustees said to move ahead even if it requires university money, which is contrary to how it was previously presented as state supported—mainly with private industry funding. A not dissimilar project, UI Labs, which began as a UI-led project when Larry Schook was VP, was morphed strongly by industry partners and shifted its focus to manufacturing and away from UI so that UI Labs now refers to “Universities and Industry Labs”. At least at the outset, the DPI project will have a governing board led by our UI President, so it is hoped the university involvement will continue.

Chair Miller also talked about a recent news article pointing to a study demonstrating gender and race discrimination that remains in online classes; “instructors in online courses are 94% more likely to respond to forum posts by white male students than to posts by women or by men of other races.” One of the aspects highlighted as advantageous with online education was that it makes coursework more accessible and could be beneficial in helping to eliminate biases and discriminations occurring in classrooms. This news was disturbing for Miller. She learned from Adam Fein that the iLearn group and CITL are looking for strategies to decrease such gender discrimination. A recent Chronicle article (https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Case-for-Inclusive/242636) also gives methods that help.

Chair Miller asked if Michel Bellini would like to comment on the article’s premise of gender and race discrimination in online courses. Bellini remarked that the study centered on MOOCs only, so in his opinion the study results are from a biased point of view. Miller then remarked this type of discrimination is also happening with face-to-face classes as well.

Discussion then centered on UI Labs. Chair Miller remarked the Chicago-centric project (UI Labs) has been captured by industry. Conversation centered on whether or not the programs (UI labs or DPI) should have been brought before the EPC. UI Labs defines itself as “an innovation accelerator that leverages a network of hundreds of partners from university + industry (represented by the “UI” in the name), along with startups, government, and community groups, to address problems too big for any one organization to solve on its own.” Discussion shifted to the thought that this was something that did not need to have EPC approval. No action taken.

Chair Miller concluded her remarks saying we should pay attention to what is happening with DPI in part because of U of I’s financial investment, and the potential educational implications/benefits. Hart remarked that much of what UI Labs did and what is hoped for with DPI is self-funded and is bringing a financial return to campus.

4. **Office of the Provost Updates and Administrative Approvals EP.18.56 (K. Martensen)**

There were no updates from the Provost’s Office. Martensen then gave a brief overview of EP.18.56, the Administrative Approvals through March 26, 2018.

EP.18.56 removes three courses from the concentration requirements in the BS in Food Sciences and Human Nutrition, Human Nutrition concentration:

- **ACE 161, Microcomputer Applications (3 hours);**
- **MCB 245, Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab I (2 hours); and**
- **MCB 247, Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab II (2 hours)**

These three courses are not required for the post-graduation paths of the majority of students pursuing the Human Nutrition, including medicine, public health, graduate schools in the field, and industry jobs. Feedback from students indicates the courses do not particularly strengthen their
understanding of upper-level courses in the Food Science and Human Nutrition major. Students may still select these courses as electives to count toward their degree if they wish. Both the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics and the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology provided letters of support of this change. The proposal also adds 7 hours of electives.

There are no changes to the number of hours required for the concentration or for the major.

Discussion ensued about lecture courses, sans labs, and while these courses were being eliminated from the concentration requirements, students could still elect to take them as electives, and these courses are not at risk of not being offered.

Chair Miller asked for a motion. Michael made a motion to accept EP.18.56, seconded by Hart. Further discussion resulted in Meyer stating this proposal should be brought to the EPC in regular proposal format, rather than through Administrative Approval.

Chair Miller called for the vote to approve EP.18.56. The motion passed and will appear on the April 2, 2018, Senate agenda as a Report.

5. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)
   None

6. Old Business
   C. Subcommittee B: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Linda Moorhouse, Phoebe Handler
      1. EP.18.31 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences from the School of Information Sciences
         Meyer reported he is waiting on a few items of clarification that were asked from the sponsor. These will be posted in the second revision of EP.18.31 when received.

         No further discussion.

7. New Business
   A. Feedback Request on the New Budget Model
      No discussion was held.

   B. Subcommittee A: Randy McCarthy, Chair; Cynthia Buckley, Nolan Miller, Samantha Frost, Andrianna Kurzenberger, Amanda Yuile
      1. EP.18.52 Proposal to establish a combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the College of Engineering
         McCarthy gave a brief overview of the proposal, which melds the current Aerospace Engineering curriculum in both the BS and MS to create a five-year degree. It meets all of the same requirements in the current MS program, although it is 7 hours shorter than the current BS curriculum. Students would receive both BS and MS degrees simultaneously when they
graduate. The 7 hours eliminated in the proposed BS curriculum are in the technical electives, which are satisfied by any of the MS curriculum hours.

Discussion ensued about funding questions in reference to undergraduate and graduate tuition and what is paid when. Questions also arose about a "companion proposal" that was mentioned in the text of the proposal, and about accreditation implications. McCarthy will ask the College to clarify these points.

The committee was encouraged to provide any further questions to McCarthy by the end of the week.

No further discussion.

C. Subcommittee C: Steve Michael, Chair; Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, David Huang, Kathryn LaBarre, Linda Robbennolt, ex-officio

1. EP.18.53 Proposal to establish the undergraduate minor in Musical Theatre from the College of Fine and Applied Arts

Michael gave an overview of the proposal to the committee. The Musical Theatre Minor is for FAA students, primarily those who are dance majors and acting concentration theatre majors. Michael asked Robbennolt to correct the “acting major” text in the proposal. He also asked for clarification about a new course (MUS 222 – Singing in Musical Theatre), that was referenced in the proposal. Moorhouse responded that this course is making its way through the CIM approval system right now.

Discussion ensued as to why this minor was not open to the general campus. Robbennolt responded that “sponsoring departments have the right to restrict enrollment in the minor.” Plus, this particular minor, which will take very few students each year (5-10), requires students to have concurrent UIUC training in dance or acting. In proposing the Musical Theatre Minor, the School of Music is responding to requests from its FAA performance cohorts in Dance and Theatre. With the recent approval of the BMA in Lyric Theatre, courses are now in place to offer this particular minor. Entrance to the Musical Theater Minor will be controlled by audition, as well as through Academic Affairs personnel in the School of Music.

Michael moved to approve the proposal. McCarthy seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. The motion passed and the proposal will appear on the April 2, 2018 Senate agenda.

D. Subcommittee B: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Linda Moorhouse, Phoebe Handler

1. EP.18.54 Proposal to transfer the Intensive English Institute from LAS to IIP from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Illinois International Programs

Meyer gave an overview of the proposal to move the Intensive English Institute (IEI) from LAS to Global Education and Training (GET) and its parent unit Illinois International Programs (IIP). He is not entirely clear why EPC has jurisdiction over this proposal, and while the program has not been successful recently as it has been in past years, the intent to transfer is in hope it will be more successful in a new home in the future.
One of the proposal sponsors, Kristin Bouton, attended and provided further clarifications and context. Bouton shared the primary mission of the IEI is to enable international students to gain proficiency in the use of the English language for academic, professional, or other purposes. The program exposes non-matriculated international students to “intensive English” (reading and writing: 8 hours, and oral communication: 8 hours). There are six levels, beginner to advanced. Students enrolled in these 4-week courses generally have lower TOEFL scores. In addition, the IEI advances the campus mission of teaching, research and outreach by supporting graduate teaching assistants in professional development, offering opportunities for faculty and graduate students to conduct research, collaborating with other campus units in international partnerships, and implementing programs designed to connect Illinois students and community members with international students the program.

Bouton remarked that the IEI’s decrease in students in the last few years has also been seen in similar programs at other universities as well. All IEI teachers are on the UIUC faculty. Students served are primarily from Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Korea, and include Fulbright Scholars, Visiting Scholars and Konan University in Japan. The IEI is a self-sustaining institute and is accredited. It also collaborates with China Bank of Communications, Kaust University, Columbian professors, CEE 3+2 English Prep course, Engineering + IEI – Pisa English course, and Niigata University. IEI courses are not transcripted. They do not carry credit hours. Students take these courses in order to prepare them for English courses...they are not ESL courses.

Discussion centered on class/course content, quality oversight, and whether or not there is a comparable examination level for these types of classes. Benekohal stated he knew of specific communication problems with students who had taken these classes. While IEI does use “assessment criteria” it does not model itself after any other program. The IEI courses are supplemental instruction only. There is no specific outcome guaranteed to students once they complete the class(es).

The discussion of financial motivation for the move from LAS to GET resurfaced. The sponsor reported IEI “broke even last semester.” Meyer asked who controlled the program. The response was the program is a student services operation. Meyer then stated, “from the accreditation aspect, normally there is disciplinary expertise...in this case, the disciplinary expertise from Linguistics has been disconnected.” Reisner responded, “my understanding is that the teaching is prescribed...very controlled.” The sponsor responded, “every course has to have goals, objectives, and learning outcomes.” Students complete evaluations at the end of courses.

Michael remarked he would like to see IEI succeed. They also need to meet a market test. Chair Miller asked if the sponsor knew the cause behind the decline in the number of students (250 in 2014 to now 50—80% drop in four years). The sponsor remarked “IEPs (Intensive English Programs) over the country have dropped, and we are not clear why. We had a lot of students from Saudi Arabia at one point, and were cut Saudi students because we had so many.” “We are not a hot spot [geographically].” Bouton made it clear that many aspects that relate to program success are not directly in the control of the program.

People involved in international recruiting need to be running this program. The sponsor remarked, “our IEP is our most basic program. Some of our programs don't have a high return.” McCarthy remarked the program has been around a long time. If it moves, it will be in a better place.

Michael moved to accept the proposal. McCarthy seconded the motion. More discussion followed with Meyer wanting confirmation that no courses from the IEI program will appear
on any UIUC transcript now or ever. The sponsor agreed that no IEI classes/courses are transcriptable.

No further discussion.

Chair Miller called for the vote to approve the EP.18.54. The motion passed and the proposal will appear on the April 2, 2018 Senate agenda.

8. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Linda R. Moorhouse, DMA
EPC member