Present: Abbas Aminmansour, Chair; Phillip Geil, Tania Ionin, Natasha Jankowski, Michael Krassa, Jacqueline McDowell, Steve Michael, Gay Miller, Lori Newcomb, David Olsen, Leslie Struble, Margarita Teran-Garcia

Ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Jennifer Hamer, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht, Carol Malmgren

Guests: Jeff Dawson, Guy Garnett, Carol Livingstone, Ann Mester, Chris Migotsky, John Ory, John Prussing, Deanna Raineri, John Unsworth, Richard Wheeler, Barbara Wilson

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order on Monday, August 31, at 1:10 p.m., in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 24 meeting were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair. Chair Aminmansour thanked everyone for attending the day’s meeting. He welcomed Professors Guy Garnett, Deanna Raineri and John Unsworth, who were present to support and answer questions related to EP.10.06 (see below).

III. Updates from the Provost's Office and Graduate College. Assistant Provost Kristi Kuntz briefly reported on efforts to coordinate and consolidate guidelines among the three campuses regarding multi-institutional degrees.

IV. Discussion on ICES Online Implementation Plan. Chair Aminmansour welcomed the guests present for discussion of the Instructor and Course Evaluation System online initiative: Senate Committee Chairs Jeff Dawson (Academic Freedom and Tenure) and John Prussing (General University Policy); Vice-Provosts Richard Wheeler and Barbara Wilson; and Center for Teaching Excellence representatives John Ory (Director) and Chris Migotsky (Division Head). Messrs. Ory and Migotsky presented an updated summary of ICES Online Pilot Statistics, representing a comparison of means, standard deviations and response rates for online vs. paper ICES reports. The intention of the proposal is to move entirely to an online evaluation system. Numerous meetings have been held to discuss the matter with campus and unit administrators as well as Senate officials. During today’s meeting, EPC members expressed concern about students’ class attendance as relates to participation in online evaluation, commented on the use and retention of written comments, and inquired about the student response period. Particular concern was expressed by some members over the following areas as illustrated by the pilot study: lower student participation, lower mean and higher stand deviation in student evaluations. Concerns were also raised by student member David Olsen regarding the shift of the time cost of ICES evaluations to students, at a time where students are bearing more costs of education. AFT Chair Jeff Dawson, GUP Chair John Prussing and EPC Chair Abbas Aminmansour will work together to prepare a joint committee response for future Senate information and possible action.

V. Old Business.

Subcommittee A

EP.10.02, Proposal to establish MS in Technical Systems Management and an optional graduate Concentration in the Professional Science Master's Program, Colleges of GRAD and ACES. Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Subcommittee C

EP.09.75, Proposal from the Graduate College and the Illinois Informatics Institute to Establish an Informatics Ph.D. Program. Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

VI. New Business.

Subcommittee C
EP.10.06, Proposal from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to establish a BS in Informatics. Subcommittee Chair Natasha Jankowski suggested that reference to a forthcoming support letter from Computer Science be omitted, and she then moved approval of the proposal. Upon vote, the motion was approved.

VII. Pending Items. None.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Christa Petrillo
Recording Secretary

Approved as amended, 9/21/09