A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order on Monday, February 8, at 1:10 p.m., in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the January 25 meeting were approved.

II. Remarks of the Chair. Chair Aminmansour reported that an electronic work-flow system is being developed for units to submit education proposals to the Provost's office. He also said that he and the SEC Chair, Vice-Chair and former SEC Chair have begun meeting regularly with Interim VCAA Dick Wheeler, Vice-Provost Barbara Wilson and Associate Provost Mike Andrechak to consider ongoing budget discussions and decisions made at the Campus level.

III. Updates from the Provost's Office and Graduate College. Assistant Provost Kristi Kuntz reported the following request for administrative approval:

ENGR, revision to the Combined BS/MS in Industrial Engineering. To reflect the recent change in total hours required for the BS (from 132 to 128), the requirements for the combined program need to be modified. As a combined program, students are allowed to waive 12 hours (3 hrs of IE electives, 4 hrs of technical electives, and 5 hrs of free electives) toward the BS; the revision would reduce that number to 8 (3 hrs of IE electives and 5 hrs of free electives).

Ms. Kuntz also indicated that a proposal for a revised requirement from Cultural Studies will be forthcoming.

Chair Aminmansour said a proposal concerning the merger of several College of Education departments has been submitted to the Provost's office. He would like for EPC to review the proposal prior to scheduling a public hearing on the matter.

While there were no updates on proposals from the Graduate College, Associate Dean Golato announced that the 8th Annual Graduate College Symposium: "Entrepreneurship and Graduate Education" will be held from 1:30-5:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 25, in the Illini Union.

IV. Old Business

Grade Replacement Policy Task Group (EP.09.12) met on Thursday, October 29, and developed new language which has been transmitted to the Council of Undergraduate Deans for its consideration. The Council of Undergraduate Deans is meeting today.

Degree Completion Task Group met on Friday, October 30. Dean Rich will provide a written summary of their deliberations.

ICES Online Implementation Plan Task Group met on November 6. Chair Aminmansour will report on discussions between him, AFT Chair Jeff Dawson and GUP Chair John Prussing at today’s SEC meeting; and he has already proposed that a Committee of the Whole Discussion on ICES Online be scheduled for the February 22 Senate meeting. SEC had been unable to discuss this agenda item at its November 16 meeting due to urgent budget discussions.
Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

* EP.10.17, Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of Business to Establish a Graduate Minor in Corporate Governance and International Business. Professor Huseyin Leblebici, Head of Business Administration provided background information on the proposed minor. On behalf of the subcommittee, Professor Krassa moved EPC approval of the proposal, as previously revised. The motion was seconded and, upon vote, approved.

EP.10.32, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of Veterinary Medicine to Rename the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as the Department of Comparative Biosciences. Professor Krassa said he is still awaiting a record of the VMED faculty vote on this matter.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil, Chair

* EP.10.34, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Establish a M.A. in Religion. Professor Geil indicated that the changes recommended at the January 25 EPC meeting have been addressed, and he moved approval of the revised proposal. The Committee discussed several aspects of the program: 1) the impact on undergraduate teaching in this area; 2) the current demand for such a program; and 3) the cost of the program. Chair Aminmansour emphasized the Committee’s role in reviewing the educational merits of the proposal, noting that staffing issues are the prerogative of the academic unit offering the course. Relative to the budgetary implications of this proposal, he sought input from administrative representatives. Assistant Provost Kuntz, Graduate Associate Dean Golato and LAS Assistant Dean Rich confirmed that their respective offices support the proposal, including the financial arrangements. Approval of the proposal was brought to a vote by show of hands and was passed, 7 in favor; 2 opposed.

V. New Business

Making GenEd Meaningful: The Theme as an Advising and Motivational Framework. Chair Aminmansour welcomed Professors Carol Symes and David Lange, co-chairs of the General Education Board. Professors Symes and Lange provided information on a new GenEd initiative designed to present general education requirements to undergraduate students in a more positive fashion. GEB has developed a theme-based framework for consideration as an advising tool. GenEd themes would not alter current requirements nor would students be required to pursue a theme; themes are proposed as a method to inspire and motivate students as they complete their general education coursework. The proposal was well-received by Committee members, who were overall supportive of the endeavor. A number of issues were discussed, including impact on instructional units, transcript listing, and availability of courses. On behalf of EdPol, Chair Aminmansour thanked Professors Symes and Lange and the GEB for their efforts to enhance the undergraduate education experience.

VI. Reports to Senate. Proposals approved at today’s meeting (*) will be presented for action at the February 22 Senate meeting.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Christa Petrillo
Recording Secretary

Approved as amended, 3/1/10