A meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order on Monday, March 15, at 1:10 p.m., in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the March 1 meeting were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair. Chair Aminmansour reported on President Ikenberry’s comments to the Board of Trustees at its March 9-10 meeting, saying that the President has proposed the establishment of accelerated baccalaureate degrees. President Ikenberry has discussed with the campus chancellors and Vice-President Rao ways to utilize summer sessions, advanced placement and dual credit courses to offer three-year undergraduate degree programs.

Additionally, Chair Aminmansour noted that the Grade Replacement Policy Task Group met on March 8 to finalize EPC’s report based on discussion of the matter at our March 1 meeting (see Item V below); and updates from the Graduate College will include proposals that receive Administrative Approval as is done with proposals from the Provost’s Office. In response to an inquiry on the status of EP.10.22 and EP.10.34, the Chair deferred to Assistant Provost Kuntz who indicated that LAS Administration is re-reviewing the budgetary aspects of these proposals.

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

Ms. Kuntz reported the following requests for administrative approval:

LAS, Teacher Education Minor in Mathematics, Grades 6-8. The Department of Mathematics proposes removing MATH 124–Finite Mathematics as an option to meet a distribution requirement. If a student opts to complete ‘Probability–Statistics’ they now choose from either STAT 100–Statistics or STAT 400–Statistics and Probability I. In discussion with the Illinois State Board of Education, it was noted that nearly half of the content of MATH 124 falls outside of the statistics and probability area and, therefore, should be removed. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Council on Teacher Education.

FAA, Minor in Theatre Arts. The Department of Theatre proposes the inclusion of Theatre 101–Introduction to Theatre Arts as one of the core requirements of the minor. In order to keep within the 20-hour limit, a shift in credit requirements of 3 hours of elective credits to 3 additional required hours. There would then be 14 hours of required courses and 6 hours of elective courses.

Associate Dean Golato reported on the following policy matters:

Effective, December 2010, graduate students will be required to deposit their thesis electronically. There will be no additional fees associated with electronic filing.

Dr. Golato indicated that the Graduate College Deans and Executive Committee revised the policy regarding how graduate GPA is calculated and the policy regarding how repeated courses are factored into the graduate GPA to reflect current practice. Some EPC members expressed the view that such a policy change would require Senate approval, as well. Chair Aminmansour will make further inquiry and update the Committee when he receives a response.

IV. Guest Speakers
Budgetary Issues—Dean Deba Dutta, Chair, Stewarding Excellence @ Illinois Campus Steering Committee. Chair Aminmansour welcomed Dean Dutta and those present introduced themselves. Dean Dutta explained that multiple projects have been launched to identify cost-saving measures across campus. Project teams are composed of faculty, staff and students, as appropriate, and are staffed with a cross-section of members representing diverse areas of campus. Each project is given a specific charge and will provide recommendations for moving forward through current financial challenges. It is expected that the Campus Steering Committee will release the first project reports in early April. Regular updates on events, projects and initiatives, including communications and news on campus efforts, can be found at the Stewarding Excellence @ Illinois web site <http://oc.illinois.edu/budget/index.html>.

In addressing questions from the Committee, Dean Dutta emphasized that proposals for new courses will not be dismissed out of hand and stressed the importance of EPC's role in the evaluation of new proposals to ensure that the University is configured to sustain new programs. Considerations will likely change the UI’s “footprint”; however, Dean Dutta believes this will also lead to a stronger “fabric”: quality and cost will be measured against longevity and future value.

Chair Aminmansour thanked Dean Dutta for apprising the Committee of the processes being developed to address the current financial crisis, indicating that EPC review of related proposals over the summer months will likely occur via email.

Institute of Aviation—Interim Director Tom Emanuel and Professor Terry von Thaden; Rayvon Fouché, AVIA Project Team. Chair Aminmansour welcomed AVIA Director Tom Emanuel and Professor Terry von Thaden, and CAC liaison to the Institute of Aviation Project Team, Rayvon Fouché. The Institute of Aviation is the first academic unit to be examined under the Stewarding Excellence process. Professor Emanuel explained that reorganization of the Institute began approximately two years ago in the Provost's Office with distribution of faculty to other units. Among other issues, the relocation of Human Factors faculty raises concerns about their scholarly interests, the tenurability of probationary faculty, the viability of the BS and MS degrees in Human Factors, and whether the students pursuing those degrees would continue to be housed in the Institute given that the Institute no longer has tenure system faculty. The Professional Pilot flight training program is also being evaluated and opportunities to partner with Parkland College are being considered. These issues ultimately will lead to the question of whether the Institute of Aviation should be discontinued.

The Committee discussed budgetary and staffing aspects—there are five faculty (two tenured and three probationary) who have been affected by the reorganization. Chair Aminmansour suggested that he speak with SEC Chair Tolliver and AFT Chair Dawson about tenure related issues and that Associate Provost Marshall and Assistant Provost Kuntz discuss the same with Chancellor/Provost Easter and Vice-Chancellor Wheeler.

Chair Aminmansour thanked Professors Emanuel, von Thaden and Fouché for bringing these issues to EPC.

V. Old Business

* Grade Replacement Policy (EP.09.12) EPC reviewed the changes to the Grade Replacement Policy, Section 3-309, Item 1, paragraphs (b) and (e), which had been discussed at the March 1 meeting. Professor Peter Mortensen was present to address the impact on course enrollment and related costs discussed by the Council on Undergraduate Deans. It was agreed to clarify the budgetary and staff implications to state EPC's expectation that no additional resources will be required to implement the proposed revisions beyond those anticipated in the original proposal. With this additional change, the proposal is now ready for Senate action on March 29 (EP.10.43).

Degree Completion Task Group. Dean Lucy Rich provided a draft of the Task Group's proposed guidelines for degree completion. Due to time constraints, discussion of the matter was deferred. Meantime, Dean Rich asked members to submit their comments to her via email and she will provide a revised draft for the April 5 EPC meeting.

Statement on Final Examinations. Proposed amendments to Section 3-201 of the Student Code were distributed; however, discussion was deferred to the April 5 meeting.
Subcommittee C—Natasha Jankowski, Chair

EP.10.38, Revision and title change of the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment and Society; School of Earth, Society and the Environment; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This proposal is under consideration by the subcommittee.

VI. New Business. As the following proposals were only recently assigned for subcommittee review, there was no discussion or action at today’s meeting.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

EP.10.41, Revisions to the BS Degree in General Engineering, Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering (IESE); College of Engineering.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil, Chair

EP.10.39, Restructuring the Existing MA in Asian Studies Program into Two Distinct MA Programs: MA in East Asian Studies and MA in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

EP.10.42, Creation of a Minor in Earth, Society, and Environment; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Subcommittee C—Natasha Jankowski, Chair

EP.10.40, Revision to the BS Degree in Industrial Engineering, Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering (IESE); College of Engineering

VII. Pending Items.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

EP.10.37, Proposed Reorganization of the Departments of Educational Organization and Leadership, Educational Policy Studies, and Human Resource Education into one Department with the new name of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership; College of Education. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 3:00 p.m., 42A Education Building.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Christa Petrillo
Recording Secretary

Approved as written, 4/5/10