Present: Abbas Aminmansour, Chair; Max Ellithorpe, Bettina Francis, Poshek Fu, Phillip Geil, Tania Ionin, Natasha Jankowski, Michael Krassa, Jacqueline McDowell, Jordan McNamara, Steve Michael, Lori Newcomb, David Olsen, David Strauser, Leslie Struble

Ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Andrea Golato, Laurie Kramer, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht, Carol Malmgren, Keith Marshall

Guests: Carol Livingstone, Ann Mester, Lucy Rich, Jeff Dawson (AFT), Laura Gerhold (AVIA), Alex Kirlik (AVIA Human Factors), Richard Wheeler (VCAA)

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order at 1:10 p.m., on Monday, April 12, in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the April 5 meeting were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair. Noting that this would be the final meeting for the 2009-2010 academic year, Chair Aminmansour expressed his appreciation for such a dedicated group of individuals and he thanked each and every one for their efforts on behalf of the Committee. Chair Aminmansour then congratulated David Olsen on his election as President of the Illinois Student Senate.

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

Assistant Provost Kuntz reported the following request for administrative approval (also approved by the Graduate College): Revise the Graduate Minor in Latina/o Studies. Remove LLS 597—Capstone Seminar in LLS from the minor requirements. The course will not be replaced; the total number of hours will drop from 16 to 12.

Ms. Kuntz provided a draft document for units to use in explaining the budgetary implications for new proposals. Due to time constraints, there was no discussion.

IV. Guest Speaker: Interim VCAA Richard Wheeler (1:15-1:45 p.m.).

Chair Aminmansour welcomed Vice-Chancellor Wheeler and introduced Alex Kirlik (Aviation Human Factors Division) and Laura Gerhold (Institute of Aviation), who were present to discuss the possible reorganization of the Institute of Aviation and transfer of Human Factors Division faculty.

At its March 15 meeting, EPC met with AVIA Interim Director Tom Emanuel, Professor Terry von Thaden, and CAC liaison to the Institute of Aviation Project Team, Rayvon Fouché. The Committee discussed the possible relocation of Human Factors faculty (concerns about their scholarly interests, the tenurability of probationary faculty, and the viability of the BS and MS degrees in Human Factors), as well as potential budgetary and staffing aspects related to any proposed reorganization of the Institute of Aviation. At that time, 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.

In response to questions concerning the proposed transfer of faculty in the AVIA Human Factors (AHF) Division, Vice-Chancellor Wheeler said the SEI project team was asked to consider the short-term viability and long-term sustainability of the AHF programs. He noted that the demand for the AHF BS program is declining, the quality of applicants is below the campus averages for all applicants and that the transfer rate is high. If it is determined that through restructuring of the Institute that faculty will be redistributed, Dr. Wheeler said focus will be placed on finding a strong academic home for HFD faculty and to preserve the Human Factors degree programs.

The following is an excerpt from the AVIA project team recommendations:
<http://oc.illinois.edu/budget/aviation_project_team_report.pdf>
“For the BS in Aviation Human Factors to remain a viable degree program it should be associated with tenure system faculty. In the event that the Institute no longer has tenure system faculty, the BS in Aviation Human Factors would need to be transferred to a college that is willing to fully support the program and its students, or the program would need to be terminated. Senate review would be required for any such transfer or termination. Even if the faculty remained in the Institute, the viability of a free-standing unit this small is questionable. A merger with a larger unit would be desirable. The BS program would have to have an acceptable financial plan for viability and sustainability under current budget constraints and approval by the Office of the Provost.”

“The MS in Human Factors (MSHF) faces similar issues. As a degree granting graduate program it must be aligned with tenure system faculty that can provide proper oversight of the curriculum and support of the students. One significant difference between undergraduate and graduate degrees is that the Graduate College may serve as the home for interdisciplinary degree programs, should it choose to do so. For example, the Graduate College oversees interdisciplinary programs in nutrition, neuroscience, and bioinformatics. In each of these cases, there are numerous departments across campus interested in these programs, and the Graduate College serves as the administrative umbrella for the program and coordinates the oversight of the curriculum. The MSHF could be administered in this fashion. From a statutory viewpoint, it would be considered a transfer of the degree from the Institute of Aviation to the Graduate College. Senate review would be required for such a transfer.”

In closing, Vice-Chancellor Wheeler said he appreciated the opportunity to engage in EPC conversation on the matter. He and AVIA participants departed at 1:50 p.m.

V. Old Business

Degree Completion Task Group. Due to time constraints, discussion of the proposed guidelines for degree completion was deferred. The matter will be considered by the 2010-2011 Committee.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

* EP.10.45, Establish an M.S. in Health Communication; Graduate College and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Committee discussed science requirements and the need for advisor review of transcripts for background on applicants. It was agreed to add a sentence on advising. Professor Krassa moved approval of the proposal with this change; the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

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. On behalf of the subcommittee, Professor Geil recommended approval of the proposal as amended; the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

EP.10.46, Establish an M.S. in Health Communication; Graduate College and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Professor Geil indicated that supporting documentation for the proposal is missing. This item will be carried over to 2010-2011.

VI. New Business.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

EP.10.48, Proposal from the College of ACES to establish a minor in Leadership Studies. While the Chancellor and Provost have confirmed funding arrangements, Professor Krassa noted that letters from the College of Business and Department of General Engineering have not yet been received. On behalf of the subcommittee, he moved approval of the proposal pending receipt of these letters. Mr. Olsen raised questions concerning leadership aspects of the proposal, likening it to a certificate program. Ms. Kramer indicated that the minor will provide a theoretical perspective on leadership concepts. Following discussion, Mr. Olsen moved that action on the proposal be tabled. The motion was seconded and approved with one abstention. This item will be carried over to 2010-2011.
Subcommittee C—Natasha Jankowski, Chair

* EP.10.47, Proposal from the Senate Educational Policy to make changes in Final Exam Policies. The first line of the proposed amended was revised to read, “If required, comprehensive final examinations must be given during the scheduled final examination period.” Ms. Jankowski moved approval of the proposal as amended; the motion was approved with two voting members opposed.

VII. Pending Items

Subcommittee C—Natasha Jankowski, Chair

EP.10.44, Clarify the Policy Regarding How Graduate GPA is Calculated and Revise the Policy Regarding How Repeated Courses are Factored into Graduate GPA. At the April 5 meeting, EPC approved a motion to refer the matter to an ad hoc task group with the following members: Bettina Francis, Natasha Jankowski (convener), Kristi Kuntz, Mary Lowry, Carol Malmgren, David Olsen and Pam Santic. Ms. Jankowski proposed that the Committee approve the final proposal via email. It was agreed to defer action for the April 26 Senate meeting; the item will be carried over to 2010-2011.

VIII. Items for Senate. The items marked with an asterisk (*) will be presented for action at the April 26 Senate meeting.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Christa Petrillo
Recording Secretary

Approved August 30, 2010