A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order at 1:10 p.m., on Monday, April 4, in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Announcements. Chair Aminmansour welcomed one and all. He recounted committee deliberations of March 28 and the decision to combine and reconfigure EP.11.15 and EP.11.32 into one action item. (See agenda Item VII below.)

II. Approval of Minutes. Discussion/approval of the minutes from the March meetings was deferred.

III. Remarks of the Chair. Chair Aminmansour deferred his remarks so that the committee could proceed with its discussion of the Aviation and Human Factors proposals.

IV. Updates from the Provost's Office and Graduate College. None.

V. Old Business.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil
EP.11.29, Proposal from Associate Provost Keith Marshall to reconsider the Dual Credit Policy. Mr. Marshall is incorporating changes recommended at the March 28 meeting.

VI. New Business.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa
EP.11.33, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to reorganize the Asian American Studies Program as the Department of Asian American Studies. Chair Aminmansour announced that a public hearing has been scheduled on Monday, April 11, 3:30-4:30 p.m., in 210 Illini Union (General Lounge). The committee agreed to collect comments and additional data until April 15 for review by the 2011-12 EPC.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil
EP.11.36, Proposal from the College of Business to revise the minor in Business for Non-Business majors. Professor Geil said his subcommittee is seeking clarification from the sponsors on a number of questions.

Subcommittee C—Bettina Francis
* EP.11.35, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise and rename the BSLAS in Earth, Society, and Environment as Earth, Society and Environmental Sustainability. Professor Francis recommended approval. It was noticed that a letter attachment from the Library is missing. The proposal was approved pending receipt of the attachment.

VII. Discussion.

EP.11.15, Proposal from the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to eliminate the BS in Aviation Human Factors, the Professional Pilot Curriculum, and the MS in Human Factors in the Institute of Aviation; and
EP.11.32, Proposal from the Chancellor and Provost to Close the Institute of Aviation
At its March 28 meeting, EPC agreed to consider the two proposals as a single package with four components: 1) to eliminate the BS in Aviation Human Factors; 2) to terminate the Professional Pilot Curriculum; 3) to discontinue the MS in Human Factors in the Institute of Aviation; and 4) to close the Institute of Aviation. Provost Wheeler referred to the document in which he and Chancellor Easter outlined three scenarios they would support for disposition of these components. (RE: Easter and Wheeler ltr to Aminmansour, 4/1/11.) Ms. Golato said the Graduate College is supportive of Option 3, “to recommend that [MSHF] be relocated from the Institute of Aviation to the Graduate College as a seedbed for a larger interdisciplinary initiative in Human Factors graduate education” with an explicit understanding that the degree program would be automatically closed if a new academic home cannot be found.

The committee discussed the three scenarios—modified versions of the two original proposals—and how to proceed. Mr. Olsen proposed that EPC focus discussion on the third option and consider additional language to stipulate a time limit for identifying an academic home for the master’s program. He moved that the Master of Science in Human Factors program be terminated two years from now unless a permanent academic home is found. The motion was seconded and, upon voice vote, approved without dissent (Chair Aminmansour abstained).

Having approved an amended proposal for the MS in Human Factors, the group then considered the proposal to approve EP.11.32 (close the Institute of Aviation) and the elimination of the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Human Factors and the Professional Pilot Curriculum recommendations in EP.11.15. During discussion, Professor Francis argued that EPC should address the manner in which Human Factors faculty were transferred from the Institute. Chair Aminmansour said the committee will undertake the task of addressing that aspect in a report to the Senate Executive Committee. Professor Newcomb is in the process of drafting a document which references the sequence of events, and includes arguments against the proposal to close the Institute as well as issues of quality. Professor Michael commented that quality was secondary to budgetary concerns, to which Director Emanuel claimed the Institute could be viable with faculty holding joint appointments. Mr. Emanuel distributed copies of a letter from UI President Michael Hogan to State Senator John Sullivan, in which President Hogan refers to the Stewarding Excellence review of the Institute as though it was a foregone conclusion that the Institute would be closed resulting in projected annual savings of $500-750K. (RE: Hogan ltr to Sullivan, 3/9/11.) Dr. Wheeler said the communication occurred without the knowledge or support of the Chancellor and Provost.

In discussing the degree programs, the group again considered admission criteria and reduced enrollment figures for Pilot Training; although Mr. Emanuel predicted an increase in demand in the next 5-6 years as the majority of pilots reach mandatory retirement age. Dr. Wheeler expressed the view that the pilot program is not central to the academic mission of the University and that the expense of maintaining the Institute is a powerful rationale for closure.

The Committee proceeded to vote by paper ballot on the proposal to approve EP.11.32 (close the Institute of Aviation) and recommendations in EP.11.15 to eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Human Factors and the Professional Pilot Curriculum. The proposal was approved: 9 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention (Chair Aminmansour did not vote).

Professor Newcomb will continue drafting a statement to the Senate which documents the process EPC underwent in reviewing and acting upon this difficult and complex matter. Chair Aminmansour reflected on comments concerning EPC’s handling of the proposals; he emphasized that Ed Pol was not uninformed or inconsistent in its decision-making and that the committee was extremely responsive in reviewing subsequent developments, exhibiting diligence and care in dealing with a tremendous set of issues.

VIII. Pending Proposals. There was no discussion of the proposals listed below.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil
EP.11.04, Proposal from the Graduate College to revise the policy regarding how repeated courses are factoring into graduate GPA’s.
EP.11.05, Proposal from the Graduate College to clarify the policy regarding how graduate GPA’s are calculated.

Subcommittee C—Bettina Francis
EP.10.47, Proposal from the Senate Educational Policy Committee to make changes in Final Exam Policies.

IX. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

* Indicates approval for the April 25 Senate agenda.

Christa Petrillo, Recording Secretary
Approved via email, 4/18/11