Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, September 17, 2012
Minutes

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Carey Ash, Leah Dinh, Lauren Eiten, Bettina Francis, Brock Gebhardt, Philip Geil, Prasanta Kalita, Mary Lowry, Eric Meyer, Jerome McDonough, Steven Michael, Surva Vanka, Paul Prior.

Ex Officio: Michael Andrejasich, William Buttlar, Brenda Clevenger, Stacey Kostell, Kristi Kuntz, and Adam Fein (for Faye Lesht).

Guests: Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost & Director of the Division of Management Information; Rod Hoewing, Associate Registrar for Student Systems; Mary Lowry, Graduate College Director of Academic Programs & Policy; Diane Musumeci, Acting Associate Dean (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) and Associate Professor of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese; Randy McCarthy, Professor, Mathematics; Leslie Struble, Professor, Civil Engineering.

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, September 17, 2012 in Room 232 English Building, with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
Chair Miller introduced guests Randy McCarthy and Leslie Struble as potential committee members, pending election by the Senate at the Senate's next meeting. Affiliations are noted above for guests that attended.

2. Approval of Minutes
Minutes from August 27th meeting stand approved as distributed.

3. Chair's Remarks
Chair Miller gave a few remarks on the task force report on Coursera. She noted the link that she provided in her email to the committee, and that the report contained mainly questions that were raised by the task force. As the Chancellor said in the Senate meeting, she made the decision to go forward. Miller shared she attended the Chancellors opening at Lincoln Hall on September 13. There Rob Rutenbar spoke about Coursera; the audience seemed excited and positive that Coursera will be part of our campus. Rutenbar noted effective student enrollment has already increased 4-fold. Miller suggested she thought it would be valuable to have an informational report by someone who can answer questions and asked what others thought of that? Buttlar explained that Coursera courses are generally half-semester courses. Francis brought up the allocation of resources as important. Prior would like more info. Chair Miller believes the Educational Policy committee will be asked for input that relates to aspects of Coursera. Kuntz reminded the committee that these courses are not for credit. Ash
brought up tuition concerns noting these are free courses; perhaps students could save money. Chair Miller mentioned that students have a means to use Coursera knowledge to gain credit and save by taking Coursera courses and then requesting and passing courses by proficiency exam. Vanka brought up admissions concerns, quality of students, testing, and the possibility of a degree getting diluted. Eiten brought up the distinction between Coursera providing knowledge and not credit hours. By consensus, it was clear the committee wanted an informational session. Chair Miller will follow up to get a speaker for EPC.

4. Provost’s Office Updates (Kristi Kuntz)
   No updates.

5. Graduate College Updates (William Buttlar)
   A. New Grad Policies for Doctoral Student Prelim and Final Exams – Buttlar – copies of related slides are available on the Senate’s members-only webpage: http://www.senate.illinois.edu/ep/props.htm.

   The basic changes reviewed included:
   i. Co-directors are allowed now.
   ii. Tenure requirement is clarified to be AT UIUC, not elsewhere.
   iii. The student, Chair, and 1+ voting member must be present at the exam.
   iv. Voting members must be present for all parts of the exam, either in person or via teleconference—can’t leave early or arrive late.
   v. Committee remains active for 180 days, and activity begins at time of appointment.
   vi. Limited # of prelim or final exam attempts—may only be taken one additional attempt after failing.
   vii. Elimination of the defer decision on the final exam—now examination results are recorded as pass, pass with revision or fail. McCarthy noted in mathematics they have used the deferral if more information is needed before a decision can be made. He provided the example that there can be the question of originality of some aspect which requires some time (a week or two) to research. Buttlar will follow up.
   viii. Form names have been updated.

6. Old Business
   A. Rod Hoewing – follow-up on Saturday finals for this fall semester. Needs: identify the number of students/faculty affected by having classes on a Saturday. Will have numbers by October.
   B. Subcommittee A – Paul Prior, Chair; Carey Ash, William Buttlar, Brenda Clevenger, Bettina Francis, Prasanta Kalita, and Eric Meyer.
      i. EP.13.01: Proposal to establish a Graduate Concentration in Romance Linguistics in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, the Department of French, and the Department of Linguistics, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
• Prior moved approval of proposal which was passed by voice vote.

C. **Subcommittee B – Phil Geil, Chair; Michael Andrejasich, Brock Gebhardt, Sarah Halko, Stacey Kostell, and Jerome McDonough.**

i. **EP.13.07**: Proposal to Establish a Master of Engineering Degree in the College of Engineering, which can have majors or concentrations per dept.

ii. **EP.13.08**: Proposal to Establish a New Major in Materials Engineering in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering for the degree of Master of Engineering.

iii. **EP.13.09**: Proposal to Establish a New Combined Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering-Master of Engineering with a Major in Materials Engineering in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering.

• Subcommittee Chair Geil said these are still being discussed and the committee wants more information. Geil said it raises the question of if it should be allowed for one college to deny enrollment in a course, and what kind of policies should be formed. Michael said that part of the challenge is the discussions related to transfer-pricing. Chair Miller read from a document titled: Budgeting Principles and Practices, Communication 1 from the Provost; from the table on page 8, it generally appears that for undergraduate tuition dollars, these are allocated through IUs where most of allocation goes to the college offering the class, and presumably doing the teaching. But for graduate student courses, projected fall/spring net tuition less a campus surcharge is allocated to the college of enrollment. Document is at: http://provost.illinois.edu/communication/01/index.html.

• Meyer pointed out this is probably the practice because most graduate students don’t pay tuition but are on tuition waivers.

D. **Subcommittee C – Steve Michael, Chair; Leah Hoa Dinh, Lauren Eiten, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht, Gary Schnitkey, and Surva (Pratap) Vanka.**

i. **EP.13.03**: Proposal to Revise the NRES (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) Concentration Requirements: Resource Conservation and Restoration Ecology Concentration.

ii. **EP.13.04**: Proposal to Revise the NRES (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) Concentration Requirements: Global Change & Landscape Dynamics Concentration.

iii. **EP.13.05**: Proposal to Revise the NRES (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) Concentration Requirements: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Concentration.

iv. **EP.13.06**: Proposal to Revise the NRES (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) Concentration Requirements: Human Dimensions of the Environment Concentration.
- Subcommittee Chair Michael shared in answer to questions raised on this group of proposals: courses will be staffed. No course outside of NRES is required, and numbers of hours has been corrected. Michael moved approval of the whole batch which was passed simultaneously by voice vote.

7. **New Business**
   Nothing.

8. **Meeting adjourned at 2:04.**

Rachel Glasa
Senate Staff