Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, November 12, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Bettina Francis, Phillip Geil, Prasanta Kalita, Jerome McDonough, Eric Meyer, Steven Michael, Paul Prior, Lauren Eiten, Brock Gebhart, Leah Dinh, Michael Andrejasich,

Ex Officio: William Buttlar, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht,

Guests: Karen Carney, Associate Dean of LAS; Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost and Director of Division of Management Information; Rod Hoewing, Interim Registrar; Bruce Rosenstock, Associate Professor of Religion; Matti Bunzl, Professor of Anthropology; Victoria Coverstone, Professor of Aerospace Engineering; Elizabeth Stovall, Engineering Graduate Programs Director.

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order at 1:10 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2012 in Room 232 English Building, with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

I.  Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

II.  Proposals with sponsors attending:

   A.  EP.13.10: Proposal to Establish the Jewish Studies Concentration within the BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies (Matti Bunzl, Bruce Rosenstock)

   i.  Jewish Studies is more of a study of the cultural traditions or the history of Judaism, not so much as a professional course for students looking to get a job.

   ii. Committed to separation of church and state.

   iii. Program is neutral; not limited to Jewish students;

       a.  Respect and objectivity are very important.

   iv.  Overlap with religious studies major not a concern:

       a.  difference in course requirements and concentrations;

       b.  Religious Studies Department faculty have unanimously approved the new major

   v.  Added value:

       a.  New program is replacing the Linguistics program, home of the Hebrew program. Moving into LAS means its core could be redefined and strengthened.

   vi.  Rosenstock is the Administrator; Executive Committee (initially brought up idea for this new major); 10-20 students per year graduate in this field, but many more take 1 or a few classes to fulfill credits for a different degree.
Rosenstock and Bunzl are will revise the proposal to include all issues raised by Ed Pol committee, including Administration. Motion to pass EP.13.10 pending minor revisions. Committee voted unanimous pass by voice vote.

B. EP.13.07: Proposal to Establish a Master of Engineering Degree in the College of Engineering (Elizabeth Stovall, Victoria Coverstone)

Committee discussed entire group of proposals together. Questions centered mainly on financing, course arrangements, and potential influence on program quality:

i. Tuition sharing? Per Stovall and Coverstone, 80% of tuition returns to department. Majority of students should be self-funded.

ii. Why are more degrees in Engineering needed? Why not eliminate the Master of Science in Engineering? MS is geared toward technical depth. MEng involves business courses too.

iii. Is BS required? Depends on the degree/concentration.

iv. Accreditation implications, e.g. changes in student/faculty ratios? Stovall and Coverstone see several combined degree programs and do not see a concern.

v. Discrepancies in MS vs. MEng? Committee members note that regulatory agencies provide stipends to students; some portion of students will somehow get funding that’s different; will this create awarding of stipends/tuition waivers on criteria other than merit? Per Stovall and Coverstone, an Executive Committee has voted that students will get course credits, no pay. How does that help when a department needs to increase course load? Per Stovall and Coverstone, excess seats are available in most courses; or hire a TA; no current intent to grow the faculty in MEng. No additional resources are a concern for Educational Policy committee. Quality of courses for PhD students is a concern too. Stovall and Coverstone note that many other departments on campus have a professional degree within their College (examples given: Law, Business).

vi. Enrollment concerns, as related to growth and reallocation of more funds to Engineering? Stovall and Coverstone say limited growth from these proposals will not likely cause a need for fund reallocation. This major is being created for students who just want a Masters, and do not plan to go for their PhD.

vii. Since courses are not exclusive to the program, what prevents a student from enrolling in both majors, which distorts the tuition model? Grad College requires a student to be established in a program for at least one year, so minimum tuition generated per enrollment in MEng is 1 year.

Geil moved approval of the 5 proposals. Committee voted by show of hand 4 for, 4 against, and 3 abstaining. Kuntz suggested a conversation with Provost Office about funding; committee agreed by consensus. A concentration must be declared before any resources can be discussed. So e.g. internal allocation, point B in 13.11, is explained in 13.12.
C. **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

D. **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

E. **EP.13.11**: Proposal to Establish a Major in Engineering in the College of Engineering for the degree of Master of Engineering

F. **EP.13.12**: Proposal to Establish a Graduate Concentration in Energy Systems within the Master of Engineering Degree in the College of Engineering

III. **Approval of Minutes**
Minutes from the October 15, 2012 meeting stand approved pending corrections which will be made by Glasa. Miller introduced new member Associate Dean Karen Carney who is replacing Diane Musumeci from LAS.

IV. **Chair’s Remarks** (Miller)
None.

V. **Provost’s Office Updates** (Kuntz)
General Education Board met to look at recertification process. Suspend process for this academic year.

VI. **Graduate College Updates** (Buttlar)
GC examining requirement of unanimous decision for qualifying examination.

VII. **Report on Coursera** (Kalita, McCarthy, Buttlar)
None.

VIII. **New Business**
None.

IX. **Other Business: Certificates discussion** (Kuntz)
Kuntz passed out inventory of Centers on campus. Miller explained that GUP is overloaded and since Ed Pol proposals have gone down compared to historic norms and because of the size of Ed Pol, we will take over responsibility for evaluation of Center and Institute Proposals at least for the remainder of this year. Discussion will begin at our next meeting.

X. **Adjournment at 2:51 p.m.** by Chair Miller.