A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:11pm on Monday, October 14, 2013 in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
   Guests were introduced.

2. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes from October 7, 2013 were approved as amended.

   Tucker and Kramer are co-chairs of the MSAC. MSAC is comprised of about 23 members including faculty members, CITES (Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services), the Office of University Counsel, and other stakeholders. The committee discusses strategy and policy issues surrounding MOOCs (massive open online course). MSAC was appointed in April 2013 and has met often and regularly, including over the summer. There is a great deal of enthusiasm surrounding MOOCs and the rapidly evolving environment surrounding MOOCs.

   There are traditional online courses in which a student registers for courses, pays a fee, and receives credit. The Coursera MOOC requires an email address, is free of cost, and is not for credit. There is a large gap between these two types of online courses. MSAC is approaching these courses by asking two important questions – who are we going to reach and how are they going to learn?

   The strategy is to explore. Illinois quickly joined the MOOC world. Illinois is learning a lot about how to prepare these courses and collecting data about the students. There are numerous large and small policy issues. Peer institutions are being used as a resource for developing policy. MSAC recommends continuing with Coursera at this time.

   A second round of proposals was solicited in spring 2012. Five or six proposals will move forward into production. Some sponsors withdrew their proposals in favor of waiting for the next solicitation process. The proposals moving forward will be produced in December 2013 or January 2014. Proposal sponsors are encouraged to use different aspects of the Coursera platform. Illinois is one of the first land-grant universities to join Coursera. Kramer added that the same processes are followed to create Coursera MOOCs as are followed for on-campus courses.

   MSAC is recommending the campus hire additional staff. Some existing regular online courses were postponed in order to produce MOOCs. Regular online courses cannot continue being postponed.

   Tucker discussed policies surrounding MOOCs. Many MOOC policy concerns are addressed by existing policies. Faculty intellectual property rights use the same policy for on-campus courses as
well as for online and MOOCs. Courses and curriculum policy will be the same for on-campus courses and MOOCs. When external courses for credit are evaluated, same process is used. The MSAC recommends continuing with the current policy of not issuing credit for MOOCs, but also recommend that in the future MOOCs might be available for credit. Issuing credit for a course should be determined by what is learned, not the amount the course costs.

Illinois faculty members are not currently compensated further for developing MOOCs. It is considered outreach. If faculty members are compensated in the future, the courses would need to become income generating. There is also a cost difference between developing a course and presenting a course.

Coursera is not accredited and currently Illinois cannot transfer any course from an unaccredited institution. Meyer expressed his concern about course articulation and the possibility of indirectly accepting a MOOC as credit. If an intermediate institution accepts a MOOC as credit, a student from the intermediate student transferring to Illinois, then Illinois could therefore indirectly accept the MOOC. Miller added that the state of Illinois requires any accredited institution only accept transfer from another accredited institution. Kostell also added that when Illinois changed to the electronic centralized articulation, this process was approved by EPC.

Kramer presented the positive that the whole system affords Illinois a great deal of data and areas of research, along with the ease of moving into international markets. Tucker added that much of the Coursera course materials for MOOCs is transferable to on-campus and traditional online courses. MOOCs are a completely different learning environment. Generally, students that excel in MOOCs are the same students that excel in on-campus courses.

Tucker noted that Illinois is well aware funds are going towards MOOCs, but no funds are generated from MOOCs. This is currently a development and exploratory phase. This phase cannot continue indefinitely. Currently, approximately five MOOCs are produced per year. If this number increases, the model will need to change.

4. **A Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education** (C. Tucker)
   Tucker distributed a document titled “The Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education: An Overview” which can be found online at: [http://www.senate.illinois.edu/ep/c-cue_overview.pdf](http://www.senate.illinois.edu/ep/c-cue_overview.pdf).
   The Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education is a project organized by the Office of the Provost for the 2013-2014 academic year. The purpose is to involve a wide cross-section of faculty, students, and staff in a conversation about broad goals for undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience at Illinois. The full Senate Committee on Educational Policy has been invited to participate and can choose the smaller discussion groups that are of interest to each individual. The meetings are scheduled from late October through early December with a summarized report goal of January 2014.

5. **Chair’s Remarks** (G. Miller)
   Chair Miller was at a conference this past weekend and discussions revealed students that have more difficulty completing MOOCs also struggle with traditional classes. Miller also mentioned Open Access and that the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) is very supportive despite the costs.

6. **Office of the Provost Updates** (K. Kuntz)
   No report.

7. **Graduate College Updates** (B. Buttlar)
   No report.
8. Old Business
   A. Revision to Standing Rule 13 – Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units
      i. Academic Program Data (A. Edwards)
         There is a current move to an administrative review of courses every eight years. The Office of the Provost is setting the metrics for these reviews. The reviews may or may not help identify concerns. CourseLeaf would help track some of the implications to other units when changes are made to course requirements. This increases awareness of the potential damage that could be done outside of the unit making the changes.
         Geil expressed his opinion that if a unit intends to discontinue enrolling students, then the unit should make EPC aware of this decision. There is also concern about a dramatic increase or decrease in enrollment in a program. McCarthy suggested requiring the submission of an “intent to close” form two years prior to the closing of a program. The committee noted that it is difficult to legislate intent.
         Chair Miller noted that she spoke with the Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedure (USSP), William Maher, and invited him to attend a future EPC meeting. Maher will listen to discussion regarding these concerns to aid in determining if changes to Standing Rule 13 would be appropriate.

9. New Business
   A. Subcommittee A: Eric Meyer, Chair; Karen Carney, Bettina Francis, Gary Kling, Faye Lesht, Danielle Maynard, Pratap Vanka
      i. EP.14.09 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Add the Existing Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies to the PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures
         Meyer reported that there were a series of minor editorial changes made to the proposal. Currently there is a large amount of course work that falls into this concentration. The Medieval language requirement can be satisfied with a major international language. This proposal opens the concentration to the East Asian Languages and Cultures.
         EP.14.09 proposal discussion will continue at the next meeting.
      ii. EP.14.12 Proposal from Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to rename the Center for a Sustainable Environment as the Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment
         Meyer reported that the current title of the Center did not resonate with some and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research felt the updated name would also aid in marketing purposes.
         Meyer moved approval of EP.14.12. The motion to approved EP.14.12 passed by voice with no objections and no abstentions.

   B. Subcommittee B: Phillip Geil, Chair; Brenda Clevenger, Susan Curtis, Sarah Halko, Stacey Kostell, Randy McCarthy, Charles Roseman, Stephanie Sowl
      i. EP.14.08 Proposal from the College of Business Department of Accountancy and the Graduate College to Increase the Credit Requirement Needed to Earn the MS in Taxation
         EP.14.08 discussion is postponed until the next meeting.
ii. **EP.14.13** Proposal from the College of Engineering to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering

EP.14.13 discussion is postponed until the next meeting.

C. **Subcommittee C:** Steve Michael, Chair; Juan Bernal, Bill Buttler, Matthew Hill, Kristi Kuntz, Isabel Molina, Jeremy Tyson, Michelle Wander

i. **EP.14.10** Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Eliminate the Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Concentration from the MS and PhD in Biology

Michael noted that the proposal sponsor assured the committee that students with interest in this type of program will be well served by other offerings. All students with this concentration have graduated.

Michael moved approval EP.14.10. The concentration is only attached to the MS and PhD in Biology and not in Plant Sciences. The department stopped admitting students three years ago.

The motion to approved EP.14.10 passed by voice with no objections and no abstentions.

ii. **EP.14.11** Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Revise the Language Requirement in the Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies

Michael gave his opinion that the language requirement should be as vague as possible to allow a student and advisor to choose the most appropriate language needed for the chosen area of study.

EP.14.11 proposal discussion will continue at the next meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate