MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Bettina Francis, Phillip Geil, Matthew Hill, Danielle Maynard, Randy McCarthy, Eric Meyer, Steven Michael, Isabel Molina, Jeremy Tyson

  ex officio: William Buttlar, Karen Carney, Stacey Kostell, Kristi Kuntz

Guests: Assistant Provost and Director of the Division of Management Information Amy Edwards, Associate Registrar Rodney Hoewing, Academic Program Director in Accountancy Norma Lauder

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:11pm on Monday, October 28, 2013 in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
   Guests were introduced.

2. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes from October 14, 2013 were approved as amended.

3. Retention and Graduation Data (S. Kostell)
   Kostell distributed various materials showing aggregate data; a high level view of graduation and retention data. The data were shown for three years. The data included the size of the cohort, the percentage of students graduating from the same college from which they entered, from a different college than the one entered, and for the campus overall. The materials also include graphs displaying 4 and 6 year graduation rates within the same college, different college, and as a campus. The college with the highest graduation rate is also shown. The IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) data are included in the distributed materials are from 2005. The most recent data available are from 2006, but these were unavailable due to the recent government shut-down. Graduation rates (4 and 6 year) for other Illinois educational institutions and for select peer institutions were distributed.

   Approximately 100 more students than anticipated were enrolled in the College of Engineering this year. These additional students represent a 5% yield increase. The goal for next year is a return to the previous goals. Examination of individual factors to explain retention rates does a poor job in explaining contributions to retention; every college and every individual is different. A couple of questions that make the data more robust include: 1) how is a student performing in the population of the college and 2) how is a student performing within his/her peer-set?

   Kostell added that generalizations about different data sets are difficult. For example Kostell posed the question, do international students with higher TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores perform better? If this were true, the TOEFL score for entry to the campus could be raised if the goal were to increase international student performance. Kostell’s investigations reveal there was no correlation.

   Under-represented retention and graduate rates vary widely by college. Carney added that the gap between under-represented and other students is narrowing.

   There were numerous conversations prompted by the examination of retention rates. Illinois is doing well among peers, but there is still more to learn. There is an importance to the campus to identify gaps and to narrow those gaps. It is important to learn the story behind the numbers. Miller agreed that a focus on metrics without the underpinning narrative can be misleading. It requires more understanding of the data to get the full picture.
Transfer retention rates are difficult to identify due to the complexity of the situation. Some students transfer as a sophomore and some transfer as a junior. The unavailability of financial aid funding for transfer students is also a factor in transfer retention rates. For example, a large number of students that attend the College of DuPage for one or two years before transferring to Illinois is not because the student was not accepted, but rather the student lacks the financial means to attend Illinois.

Miller thanked Kostell for sharing these very interesting data and associated information.

4. **Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)**  
No remarks.

5. **Office of the Provost Updates (K. Kuntz)**  
No administrative approvals reported.

Kuntz thanked those that participated and gave input on the centers and institutes form.

6. **Graduate College Updates (B. Buttlar)**  
No administrative approvals reported.

The Graduate College Executive Committee created a subcommittee with the charge to 1) Explore the issues associated with accommodating graduate programs at the college level or within centers or institutes instead of within departments. 2) Develop graduate program proposal guidelines to ensure program effectiveness and student satisfaction when a unit proposes to accommodate a graduate program outside of a department. 3) Review practices at peer institutions. Subcommittee members include Bill Buttlar, Chair, Graduate College; Gay Miller, Senate Committee on Educational Policy Representative; Ramona Oswald, Graduate College Executive Committee Member; and Dana Rabin, Graduate College Executive Committee Member. Weekly meetings are planned until the end of November. The subcommittee was asked to report back to the Executive Committee by mid-December with its recommended guidelines.

Buttlar noted that these types of programs are complicated and it is important to ensure that all the information included in the proposal for these types of programs is detailed and explicit. With programs at the college level or within center or institutes, decisions would be made by the Executive Committee instead at a department level.

Miller suggested keeping EPC apprised of the work, and Buttlar agreed.

7. **Old 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 (EALC)

Meyer noted that EP.14.09 is dependent on EP.14.11. This proposal extends the program to EALC and there is an effort to match seminars to areas of enrollment. Meyer moved approval of EP.14.09. By voice, EP.14.09 was approved with no opposition 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
Geil noted that one course had three separate titles. Kuntz responded that it is possible to have a section specific title. Hoewing added that a governance process to make them regular courses would need to be followed.

Geil moved approval of EP.14.08 with the recommendation that course titles are changed as appropriate. By voice, EP.14.08 was approved with no objections and no abstentions.

ii. **EP.14.13** Proposal from the College of Engineering to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering

Geil moved approval of EP.14.13. By voice, EP.14.13 was approved with no opposition and no abstentions.

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

i. **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 announced that the requested clarifications have been made, and with a customizable program the advisor would assist the student to decide which languages would be appropriate.

Michael moved approval of EP.14.11. By voice, EP.14.11 was approved with no opposition and no abstentions.

D. **Revision to Standing Rule 13** – Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units

This item will be discussed at the next meeting. The Senate Committee on University Statue and Senate Procedures (USSP) Chair William Maher and other USSP committee members will attend the next meeting to discuss EPC concerns.

8. **New Business**

Miller announced that EPC has received three new proposals and the proposals will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:12pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate