Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Juan Bernal, Bettina Francis, Phillip Geil, Matthew Hill, Gary Kling, Randy McCarthy, Eric Meyer, Steven Michael, Jeremy Tyson

ex officio: Karen Carney, John Hart, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht

Guests: Graduate College Associate Dean William Buttlar, Assistant Provost and Director of the Division of Management Information Amy Edwards, Associate Registrar Rodney Hoewing

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP) was called to order at 1:13 pm on Monday, February 3, 2014 in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from January 27, 2014 were approved as amended.

3. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)
Chair Miller noted that a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education stated that the U.S. will earn $66-billion in income from loans paid out from 2007 to 2012. The estimated $66-billion income off interest rates exceeds the government’s cost to operate the program.

The meeting scheduled in two weeks on 2/17/2014 will be cancelled.

4. Office of the Provost Updates (K. Kuntz)
Kuntz reported that a website for centers and institutes will be created. The form for a center or institute that is established and applying for permanent status will be posted soon.

Kuntz also mentioned that she was contacted by a unit about a certificate program. The discussions on certificate programs will need to be reconvened by this committee.

5. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)
This was a minor revision of the American Indian Studies Graduate Minor involving a change in the course requirements. It is noted that while there is no change in hours, a removal of two of the three core courses will provide students the opportunity to take more elective courses. This will result in greater flexibility for both staffing needs and course distribution while still providing students with the needed material. Miller reminded the committee that administrative approvals are done in consultation with EPC chair and are always brought to the committee.

6. Old Business
A. Subcommittee A: Eric Meyer, Chair; Karen Carney, Bettina Francis, Gary Kling, Faye Lesht, Danielle Maynard, Pratap Vanka
   i. EP.14.19 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer the Undergraduate Minor in Italian, and the Undergraduate Major Leading to the BALAS in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French
   ii. EP.14.20 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer the Administrative Homes of Faculty and Associated Non-tenure-track Academic Lines Within the Italian Program to the Renamed Department of French and Italian
   iii. EP.14.21 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Rename the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and the Department of French to the Department of French and Italian
Meyer noted that discussion of these proposals will be delayed until after the February 26, 2014 hearing.

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

i. **EP.14.17 Proposal from the College of Education to Revise the EdD Degree in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

Michael noted that this proposal for an EdD differs from a PhD degree. Some of the subcommittee’s questions have been answered by the sponsor, but no financial questions were answered. Michael has asked the sponsors for further clarification and is waiting for a response.

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

Geil drafted three documents that have been posted to the committee members section of the EPC website. The first document is the proposed changes to *Standing Rule* 13 (SR13). The second document has an additional paragraph noting notification to a Senate committee other than EPC if the administrator plans to add administrators. The third document is the proposed form that would be submitted to EPC to inform the committee of any significant increases or decreases in programs.

Geil moved approval of the SR13 revised document that does not include the language about administrators. Meyer seconded the motion.

Miller wants to ensure the policy EPC submits to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) is effective and that units will not ignore the policy. Meyer added that the primary value is to encourage open dialog and ensure all constituents are informed and do not feel blindsided. Miller noted that if this draft is approved, the document will go forward to USSP and then becomes a USSP document to do with as they see appropriate.

The motion to approve the revised SR13 and transmit to USSP passed by voice unanimously. The SR13 document will be transmitted to USSP.

Geil made a motion to add the additional paragraph that includes administrators to the approved SR13 document. McCarthy seconded the motion and discussion followed. Concerns were expressed that the additional paragraph that includes administrators was not specific enough. The motion was defeated by voice.

Geil made a motion to send the administrator paragraph as a supplement with the proposed revised SR13 to USSP and carbon copy the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP). Meyer seconded the motion, and a short discussion followed. The motion to send the administrator paragraph as a supplement to the revised SR13 to USSP and carbon copy GUP was approved by voice.

Miller will write a letter* and forward the revised SR13 and supplemental document. The committee agreed to postpone approval of the suggested form until the revisions to SR13 are approved.

7. **New Business**

A. **Interdisciplinary Programs** (B. Buttlar)

Buttlar gave a presentation* and reported that more and more graduate programs are housed in institutes, centers, at the college level. This trend of graduate programs housed outside of departmental units raised several questions: How are faculty appointments handled? How are resources allocated? How are student interests protected? How is program quality maintained?

Graduate College Dean Debasish (Deba) Dutta formed a study group to help answer these questions. Data from the Division of Management Information (DMI) was reviewed and a survey was conducted.
There are 33 programs housed outside of departments on the Urbana-Champaign campus, including majors, minors, and concentrations. Current enrollments show the largest program, financial engineering, has 98 students and began in 2010.

The survey revealed perceived advantages and perceived disadvantages. Perceived advantages included the ability to foster interdisciplinary programs and interactions and a place to experiment with emerging disciplines. Perceived challenges included Effort and expense of coordinating across units, lack of faculty oversight in some programs, sustainability of programs amidst changes in leadership, maintaining a home base for students that is intellectually stimulating and challenging and where quality is overseen by faculty, tension between the interdisciplinary program and a faulty member’s home / tracking and crediting faculty contributions to these programs.

Several recommendations were made about future proposal for programs to be housed outside of departments and should include the following: 1) Include an organizational chart, which outlines the organizational structure of the proposed program, reporting lines, position titles, and anticipated personnel at program launch, 2) All relevant memorandum of understanding (MOU) and/or memorandum of agreement (MOA) should be provided, which should outline all necessary financial agreements, and the roles and responsibilities of each unit in the proposed program, 3) Describe the physical home of the program, including long-term plans for new facilities, if applicable, 4) Describe how critical academic functions such as admissions and student advising will be managed, 5) Describe how members of interdisciplinary councils or committees will be composed and how membership will be selected and maintained/rotated, 6) Outline a reporting process that allows faculty to document their involvement in the program and the merit of their contributions, 6) Include a phase-down plan or a mechanism to shutter the program once it is no longer needed.

Implementation consists of: 1) The Graduate College Executive Committee approval of the recommendations listed above. This Committee has given approval. 2) Presentation of study findings and recommendations to EPC which is now completed. 3) Distribution and archival of the report. 4) Ultimately, pending further discussion/revision, recommendations would likely be implemented by updating the EPC proposal template and guideline documents on Senate and Graduate College website.

Miller suggested the formation of an EPC subcommittee to address some of these issues that have been documented by the study group. Geil, Buttlar, Hart, and Bernal volunteered as members of this EPC subcommittee.

B. Open Educational Resources & Textbook Affordability (M. Hill)

Hill discussed Open Educational Resources (OER) which are freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful for teaching, learning, educational, assessment and research purposes. The use of open e-textbooks could save students thousands of dollars. For example, the textbook for Physics 101 is $250, but a student could alternatively purchase an access code for an e-textbook for $150. The Illinois Student Senate (ISS) plans to make a statement encouraging faculty to use more open textbooks.

Several faculty committee members agreed that the amount of time and effort a faculty member puts into writing a textbook makes the example cost of $250 reasonable.

Kuntz suggested that Hill contact Steven Altaner as the chair of the General Education Board (GEB) and also Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Peter Mortensen. Mortensen was involved with the e-textbook that was developed for the online sustainability course.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate

*Filed with the Office of the Senate and incorporated by reference in these minutes.