Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, September 15, 2014  
MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Amanda Beacham, Pradeep Dhillon, Bettina Francis, Phillip Geil, Matt Hill, Gary Kling, Randy McCarthy, Jerome McDonough, Eric Meyer, Steven Michael, John Prussing, Jeremy Tyson, Michelle Wander  
ex officio: Michel Bellini, Karen Carney, Brenda Clevenger, John Hart, Kristi Kuntz

Absent: Mitch Dickey, Charles Roseman, Sofia Sianis, Andrew Woronowicz  
ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Keith Marshall

Guests: Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Carle Representative, Stephanie Beever; Dean of Students, Ken Ballom; Assoc. Dean of Students, Stephanie Brown; Civil & Environmental Engineering, William Buttlar; Assistant Provost and Director of the Division of Management Information, Amy Edwards; Associate Registrar, Rodney Hoewing; Director of Graduate Programs Computer Science, Rhonda McElroy; Chancellor Phyllis Wise

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, September 15, 2014 in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Approval of Minutes  
The minutes from September 8, 2014 were approved as amended.

2. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)  
No remarks.

3. Office of the Provost Updates and Administrative Approvals (K. Kuntz)  
No remarks.

4. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)  
Hart reported that the Chemistry POS needs to be updated to reflect the program that Chemistry has been administering for over a decade. He distributed a handout indicating the needed changes to the Chemistry Program of Study (POS), which refine some wording and credit requirements for 400-level and external courses. Prof. Meyer indicated he might want to see a full proposal for this, though the rest of the committee was unsure that was necessary. Chair Miller advised that further discussion be deferred to the next EPC meeting.

5. Briefing – Proposed changes to the Student Code – Class Attendance Policy; Student Bereavement Policy (Ken Ballom and Stephanie Brown)  
Ballom and Brown presented and distributed handouts detailing the proposed changes to the Class Attendance Policy. Ballom noted by doing this he is hoping to bring clarification to the Student Attendance Policy, currently there are no guidelines set in place. Brown noted the benefits with making changes to the policy:  
- Better prepare student for life at Illinois and beyond to manage and communicate their academic, health and personal issues.  
- To ensure that there is adequate time for faculty, staff and students to address issues related to missed classes.  
- To free up Assistant Deans in the Students Assistance Center to respond to and serve an increasing population of students who are exhibiting complex and concerning behaviors which
impact the campus community, and who are experiencing significant health and mental health issues.

Brown noted some of the proposed changes to the Student Attendance Policy were:

- Encourage professors to establish their own attendance policy
- Any request for absence must be made in writing within 2 weeks of the last date of absence.
- The Dean of Students will no longer provide absence letters for minor illness. Limiting health related absence letters to emergency health situations.
- Eliminate or develop more specific language than what is currently in the code about what constitutes “other emergency” or “other reasons beyond student’s control”
- Establish a student bereavement policy
- Students with chronic medical conditions must seek services from Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) for accommodation/letters to faculty regarding absences related to that condition

Brown advised the proposed policy changes apply to all students. Discussion was held regarding absences with grad students for interviewing. Brown advised that decision would be between the student and the faculty member.

6. Old Business

A. Graduate Student Concentrations and Minors (Phil Geil)
   No new discussion was held.

B. Subcommittee C: Steve Michael, Chair; Amanda Beacham, Michel Bellini, Juan Bernal, John Hart, Randy McCarthy, Charles Roseman, Michelle Wander

   EP.15.11 Academic Calendar 2023-2024

   Michael gave a brief overview of EP.15.11 and moved for approval of the proposal as is. Discussion followed suggesting a Saturday final exam date. The Committee discussed what would be the best solution to fix the 2023-2024 Calendar with finals being so close to the Christmas holiday. The Committee agreed with the calendar being 10 years out, the most appropriate action would be to add the following sentences to the bottom of the proposal to alert future campus Senate leadership:

   “The Senate Educational Policy Committee on September 15, 2014 recommends that the Senate and the Provost consider changing this calendar to offer examinations on Saturday, December 16, and end the examination period on Thursday, December 21, 2023. This will allow for increased time to process grades for the (relatively) early beginning of Spring Semester on January 16, 2024. This action was taken for AY 2013-2014 for the same reason.”

   Motion to approve EP.15.11 pending the above sentences to be added to the proposal was passed unanimously by voice. EP.15.11 will appear on the September 22, 2014 Senate agenda.

C. Subcommittee B: Jerome McDonough, Chair; Pradeep Dhillon, Phil Geil, Matt Hill, Gary Kling, Kristi Kuntz, Sofia Sianis

   EP.15.02 Proposal to establish a fully autonomous and accredited College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in partnership with Carle Health Systems.

   Chair Miller briefly summarized the public hearing that was held on Friday, September 12, 2014. An estimated 200 were in attendance and 11 were EPC members. Chair Miller reported the overall tone of the hearing was in support of EP.15.02.
Chair Miller reported the only changes to the proposal are the addition of the words governing faculty governance to include the General Rules and the addition of comments and the public hearing minutes as appendices.

Discussion followed regarding the need for more depth in details regarding: Curriculum, Governance, and Funding in other formal proposals to come.

McDonough moved for approval of EP.15.02. The motion to approve EP.15.02 was passed by voice. EP.15.02 will appear on the September 22, 2014 Senate agenda.

**EP.15.04 Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a Professional Science Master's concentration in the MS in Geography.**

McDonough gave a brief overview and moved for approval of EP.15.04. Discussion followed and the motion to approve EP.15.04 was passed by voice. EP.15.04 will appear on the September 22, 2014 Senate agenda.

**D. SP.14.12 Proposed Revision to Standing Rule 13**

No new discussion was held.

7. **New Business**

A. **Subcommittee C:** Steve Michael, Chair; Amanda Beacham, Michel Bellini, Juan Bernal, John Hart, Randy McCarthy, Charles Roseman, Michelle Wander

**EP.15.13 Establish a Formal Winter Session in the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar**

Michael gave a brief overview of EP.15.13, noting to the Committee that a number of colleges have requested this. Michael advised that this proposal is for a pilot run only for a period of one year.

Michael moved for approval of EP.15.13. Discussion was held regarding a minor edit to a sentence being moved to the correct paragraph. Discussion also was held to amend some of the text in the proposal regarding proposing future winter sessions to the senate and then the wording using instructor rank.

Michael moved for approval of EP.15.13 pending minor amendments. The motion to approve EP.15.13 pending minor amendments passed unanimously by voice and will appear on the September 22, 2014 Senate Agenda.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:49pm.

Rachel Park
Senate Office Staff