Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, September 29, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Pradeep Dhillon, Bettina Francis, Phillip Geil, Matt Hill, Gary Kling, Randy McCarthy, Jerome McDonough, Eric Meyer, Steven Michael, John Prussing, Sofia Sianis, Michelle Wander 

Absent: Amanda Beacham, Mitch Dickey, Charles Roseman, Jeremy Tyson, Andrew Woronowicz 
ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Kristi Kuntz

Guests: Assistant Provost and Director of the Division of Management Information, Amy Edwards; Associate Registrar, Rodney Hoewing; Associate Professor and Associate Head of Geology, Steve Altaner

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, September 29, 2014 in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from September 15, 2014 were approved as amended.

2. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)
Chair Miller commented on a New York Times article reporting the Obama administration is working on a plan intended to rein in college costs. Miller also distributed a sheet with costs for tuition at campuses. Main points made by the article:

- The program is an attempt to rate colleges according to practical measures like dropout rates, earnings of graduates and affordability.
- Public colleges depend on two sources of revenue for educating undergraduates: tuition from students and appropriations from their state legislatures.
- The explanation for rising tuition prices for public colleges isn’t spiraling costs. The costs are the same, but the burden of paying those costs has shifted from state taxpayers to students.
- Given this structure, a ratings system cannot affect tuition prices at public colleges.
- Public college prices are determined through a political process only.
- A college rating system will work only if it can be trusted by the consumers it is intended to help, and that means shielding the ratings from political manipulation.

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

4. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)
No new updates.

5. Briefing Workings of the Gen Ed Board and Pilot Study (Steve Altaner)
Altaner presented a power point on the workings of the Gen Ed Board. Altaner briefly updated the Committee on the following:

Governing Documents
- Proposal for revision of Undergraduate General Education requirements, EP.89.09.

General Education Board (GEB)
- Guidelines for General Education Courses were revised in 2002
- Links to documents can be found on the Gen Ed Board website: http://www.provost.illinois.edu/programs/gened/
General Education Board Activities:
- Review course proposals for Gen Ed certification
- 600 courses are certified for Gen Ed
- Recertify Gen Ed courses every 10 years
- The history, current status, and the future of Gen Ed at UIUC
- Grand challenge learning tracks
- Pilot Study – Online Gen Ed Course review

Altaner distributed handouts detailing the pilot study on Oversight of Online General Education Courses by Gen Ed Board. Altaner gave a brief overview of the pilot study and touched on the concerns, the status, and the proposal to address the issues with recommendations.

6. Briefing – CourseLeaf Academic Catalog Overview (Kuntz)
Briefing was deferred to a later EPC meeting.

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

   B. SP.14.12 Proposed Revision to Standing Rule 13
   The Committee discussed that EPC sent a letter to USSP last year addressing concerns with SP.14.12. The Committee identified a concern of major changes in unit sizes and not making EPC or other appropriate groups aware of the changes. SP.14.12 Proposed Revision to Standing Rule 13 is to address these concerns.

   University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) has asked for EPC’s approval of revisions to the language in SP.14.12. The Committee discussed how the revisions were right in line with what was proposed to USSP. The Committee discussed amending the word “shall” in line 10 to the word “may”.

   Motion was made for approval of SP.14.12 Proposed Revision to Standing Rule 13. The motion was seconded and the motion to pass SP.14.12 with the suggestion to amend the wording from “shall” to the word “may” in line 10 was passed by voice.

8. New Business
   A. Subcommittee A: Eric Meyer, Chair; Brenda Clevenger, Mitch Dickey, Bettina Francis, Keith Marshall, John Prussing, Jeremy Tyson, Andrew Woronowicz

      1. EP.15.14 Proposal requesting MILS 120
      Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.15.14. Discussion was held and concern was expressed in regards to the instructor portion of the proposal. The suggestion was made it would be beneficial to have the sponsor speak to EPC about EP.15.14.

      Meyer noted EP.15.14 needs more thought and will be deferred to the next EPC meeting.

      2. EP.15.17 Proposal To Remove the Masters of Science in Human Factors Degree Program.
      Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.15.17. Meyer gave the suggestion to revise the wording in the first sentence to:
      - Pursuant to a closure timetable established by the Board of Trustees in 2011, the Institute of Aviation was discontinued in August.

      Meyer also suggested:
• The POS page should be eliminated if the proposal is accepted.
• The remaining pages, although not directly related to this proposal, should be redirected to Parkland sites.
• How would the University handle if a former student were to return and petition to complete his or her program.

Meyer moved for approval of EP.15.17. Discussion was held and the Committee agreed to replace the word “Remove” with the word “Eliminate”.

The motion to approve EP.15.17 pending minor amendments passed by voice and will appear on the October 20, 2014 Senate agenda.

3. EP.15.20 Proposal To Endorse the Existing Policies on Graduate Concentrations and Minors
Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.15.20. Discussion was held on the difference between minors and concentrations and how it impacts a students’ transcript. Hoewing advised the Committee how minors and concentrations appear in Banner:
   ➢ Degree Major
     ❖ Major Concentration (a concentration within the major)
       ▪ Floating Concentration (a concentration- similar to a minor)
       ▪ Minor

Meyer advised the Committee EP.15.20 will be discussed again at the next EPC meeting.

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

1. EP.15.16 Proposal to Revise the BALAS in Creative Writing (resubmission of EP.14.36)
McDonough gave a brief overview of EP.15.16 and reported there are substantial issues that have been raised regarding the lack of requirements in the table. Carney noted the requirements are always in the statement of the Program of Study (POS), but not always shown in the table.

McDonough noted the narrow set of course selections. Discussion was held that Creative Writing wishes to continue keeping supportive course work as a requirement and it was noted by some Committee members that few majors at the University have retained this kind of requirement. The Committee asked that the comment be passed along to the sponsor to rethink keeping the supportive course work a requirement.

McDonough advised the Committee EP.15.16 will be revisited at the next EPC meeting.

2. EP.15.18 Proposal to Rename the Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology & Rename MS and PhD
McDonough reported EP.15.18 will be deferred till the next EPC meeting for the sponsor did not provide a complete Program of Study (POS).

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

1. EP.15.15 Proposal to Revise the Biochemistry Specialized Curriculum (resubmission of EP.14.28)
Michael gave a brief overview of EP.15.15. Discussion was held stating that the proposal was the previously withdrawn EP.14.28 and it has not been revised in the newly submitted
proposal. Michael noted concerns will be addressed with sponsors and EP.15.15 will be revisited at the next EPC meeting.

2. **EP.15.19 Proposal to Revise Requirements for the Graduate Concentration in Writing Studies offered through the Center for Writing Studies**

Michael gave a brief overview of EP.15.19 explaining the proposal is giving more flexibility to the degree.

Michael moved for approval of EP.15.19. No further discussion was held and the motion to approve EP.15.19 passed by voice and will appear on the October 20, 2014 Senate agenda.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Rachel Park
Senate Office Staff