Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, August 28, 2017
MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Ray Benekohal, David Hanley, Randy McCarthy, Eric Meyer, Steve Michael, Theo Moton, Santiago Nunez-Corrales, Bob Muncaster, Rahul Raju, Lane Rayburn, Ann Reisner
ex officio: Michel Bellini, Brenda Clevenger, John Hart, Dan Mann, Kathy Martensen, Linda Robbenolt

Absent: Cynthia Buckley

Guests: Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost & Director; Meghan Hazen, Office of the Registrar; Allison McKinney, Director of Graduate Programs & Policy; Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean of LAS; Linda Moorhouse, Assoc Dir for Undergrad Affairs, School of Music; Nolan Miller, Professor of Finance

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, August 28, 2017, in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
Member and guest introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2017, were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

3. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)
Chair Miller welcomed members and opened by advising that EPC is a work horse committee for the Senate and that it the committee’s responsibility to ensure proposals are appropriate for the University. Chair Miller also noted that the committee has four faculty vacancies and one student vacancy. She invited ideas of suggestions for possible candidates for the vacancies to be sent to her.

Chair Miller also commented on possible advantages for EPC members with experience on the Teaching Advancement Board and General Education Board. Martensen commented that there are four vacancies on the Teaching advancement Board and if there are any EPC members interested in serving on the committee to please let her know. She advised that the Teaching Advancement Board supports college-based professional development programs on teaching effectiveness and works closely with instructional development in the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

It was also announced that effective August 16, 2017, ISSS will be charging an Optional Practical Training (OPT) Maintenance Fee to international students who wish to remain on a University of Illinois sponsored F-1 visa and seek employment in the US through OPT.

Chair Miller closed her remarks by introducing Kelly Ritter as this year’s LAS contact and friend of EPC suggesting that it could be helpful for subcommittee chairs to copy her on LAS related proposal emails.

4. Office of the Provost Updates and Administrative Approvals EP.18.06 (K. Martensen)
Martensen announced that Kevin Pitts is the new Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education who formerly served as the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the College of Engineering. Martensen gave a brief overview of EP.18.06, the administrative approvals through August 28, 2017, advising that they have been posted on the EPC working web page for the committee’s review. EP.18.06 consist of requests to add courses for three undergraduate programs and one for the graduate program. There was no discussion held and EP.18.06 was approved by unanimous consent and will appear on the September 18, 2017 Senate agenda as a Report.
5. **Graduate College Updates** (J. Hart)
   No updates were given.

6. **Grade Distribution Release (GDR)** (K. Martensen)
   Martensen provided a brief overview of the GDR, advising that the process is being revisited for faculty to access information easier due to faculty frustrations with how the FOIA interface works. The change would only be for campus faculty employees; the general public will still need to go through the FOIA process. Martensen explained that they are trying to make it easier for faculty by putting forward a mechanism that is more accurate, provides more context and offers guidance by collaborating with the registrar’s office.

   A vigorous discussion was held concerning setting up the procedure internally for faculty and the FOIA process for the public. Martensen advised the only change is allowing faculty to work with the registrar’s office to gain more information in understanding data and providing context instead of faculty having to send through lengthy FOIA requests. The discussion continued concerning the risk of confidential information becoming public. Martensen advised that the University is very protective of the information and does not feel this mechanism puts data at risk.

7. **Old Business**

   **A. Subcommittee A:** Randy McCarthy, Chair; David Hanley, Cynthia Buckley, Faculty Vacancy, Faculty Vacancy, Student Vacancy

   1. **EP.17.74 General Education Board’s Proposed Revisions to GB.91.02**
      McCarthy provided a brief overview of EP.17.74, noting the proposal is carried over from last year’s EPC agenda. He advised that EP.17.74 is a Gen Ed Board revision to GB.91.02, a Gen Ed Board operating document that is being updated to current practice. He noted that the major change is to Section 7.4 Cultural Studies that was approved in EP.17.51. He advised that the EPC is being asked to put forward current changes and language suggested from us to the GEB.

      A discussion was held concerning Section 1.1 Composition 1, 1.1.1 with members requesting to change the word “international” to “second” in the phrase “or English as an international Language” to match current practice. The motion was made to request the word “international” to be replaced by “second” in the Section 1.1 Composition, 1.1.1 to read as:

      1.1 Composition I
      1.1.1 The Composition I course requirement may be met by satisfactory completion of an approved course, taken at an appropriate skill level, in Rhetoric, Communication, or English as a **International Second** Language.

      The motion was seconded and no further discussion was held. The motion to request the above change passed by voice.

      A discussion was held concerning the committee’s commitment to addressing Gen Ed issues in the closer future. It was commented that there are two things; there are factual changes of number errors on what is required and those changes were requested to match current policy practices, but specifically to address numerical differences in the process of updating the cultural studies requirement. It was stated that passing EP.17.74 is documenting current practices and EPC should support the Senate to pass this document.

      Further discussion was held concerning courses that are certified for general education. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for faculty to get together to discuss what is wanted from general education and re-evaluate the process.
It was the consensus of the committee that if the committee passes this proposal that it should be placed on the regular agenda for the Senate so that there will be some level of discussion at the Senate level.

It was suggested that Chair Miller present EP.17.74 to the Senate with an informational introduction of a promise to assess the situation and to have a broader discussion of general education requirements.

The motion was made to approve EP.17.74 with the promise to assess the situation and to have a broader discussion of the general education requirements. The motion was seconded and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.17.74 passed by voice with one nay and two abstentions. EP.17.74 will appear on the September 18, 2017, regular agenda.

8. New Business

A. Subcommittee A: Randy McCarthy, Chair; David Hanley, Cynthia Buckley, Faculty Vacancy, Faculty Vacancy, Student Vacancy

1. EP.18.05 Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Economics in the Department of Economics from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
   McCarthy provided a brief overview of EP.18.05, noting that it promises to be very popular with over 600 students expected to enroll. He added that it also stated that there are no new resources that will be needed. He advised that the minor is broken up into three tracks and enables students to become knowledgeable in one of the three core fields of economics: microeconomics, macroeconomics, or econometrics by taking core and elective courses within one of these tracks.

   A discussion was held concerning why is the minor being offered without a requirement of some macroeconomics unless a student does that particular tract. It was the consensus of the committee to invite the proposal sponsors to clarify why there are no macroeconomics courses in the Micro Track. Further consideration of EP.18.05 is deferred until the next EPC meeting.

B. Subcommittee B: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theopolies Moton, Ray Benekohal, Lane Rayburn, Faculty Vacancy, Faculty Vacancy

1. EP.18.02 Proposal to Revise the Curriculum of the Master of Music, Instrumental Conducting - Wind Band Concentration from the College of Fine and Applied Arts.
   Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.18.02 and EP.18.03, noting this basically is an 8-hour graduate seminar class replacing a 4-hour class. Meyer stated that the committee has found no substantial issues but a few minor suggestions, mainly editorial.

   A discussion followed with some members unsure of what the proposed changes were and that the hours did not seem to add up. Guest, L. Moorhouse offered clarification by advising that this is a redistribution of the electives that students can take in addition to the advanced classes and that it does indeed add up to the 32 hours for the degree.

   Meyer noted that although the proposal did not read easily, there are no problems with the substance of the proposal. He suggested that a minor editorial revision can be requested so that the proposal reads easier on the hours before the committee takes final action. The committee agreed and EP.18.02 and EP.18.03 are deferred until the next EPC meeting.
C. **Subcommittee C:** Steve Michael, Chair; Santiago Nunez-Corrales, Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, David Huang, Linda Robbenolt

1. **EP.18.01 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Advertising within the College of Media.**

   Michael provided a brief overview of EP.18.01, noting it is a flexible program for undergraduate students who plan to pursue careers in the advertising field that have a technology focus, a unique area where a CS+ ADV degree would serve various industries and their advertising well. Michael suggested inquiring with the College of Business if they would want to comment on this proposal.

   A discussion was held concerning the advertising faculty being overloaded and the proposal states that there is no implication of concern on resources considering the current overload. It was suggested to ask if this proposal has any staffing concerns given the college overload. Hart advised that there is a vigorous hiring of both non-tenure and tenure faculty at least on in CS being done to fill this need. A further issue was raised that the curriculum lacked courses in statistics and data analysis.

   Meyer added that this is a zero sum enrollment, that it is going to be some CS faculty and some advertising faculty, possibly looking at 12 or so that may come in per each degree. This allows students to get a dual degree.

   Michael advised that he will send a message to the Head of the Department of Business Administration, asking if this presents any obvious conflict by its circumstance. Further consideration of EP.18.01 is deferred until the next EPC meeting.

2. **EP.18.04 Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in History from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

   Michael provided a brief overview of EP.18.04, noting that it promises an advisor will counsel students. He suggested that although trivial, raising the concern of the general idea for requirements for a nonwestern course should also have a requirement of a western requirement.

   Michael moved for approval of EP.18.04. The motion was seconded and further discussion was held concerning clarifying the teaching load. It was commented that the revision is giving students more freedom and some articulation on how to anticipate teaching load changes. Ritter clarified by advising that the Appendix shows a vast number of courses, enough spread by moving things around. She advised to her knowledge that they do not anticipate any staffing issues.

   The motion was made and seconded to approve EP.18.04. No further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.04 passed by voice and will appear on the September 18, 2017 Senate consent agenda.

9. **Adjournment**

   The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Rachel Park
Senate Office