A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, October 9, 2017, in room 232 English Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
   Guest introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2017, were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

3. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)
   There were no chair remarks.

4. Office of the Provost Updates and Administrative Approvals (K. Martensen)
   There were no updates from Office of the Provost updates or administrative approvals.

5. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)
   There were no updates from the Graduate College.

6. Old Business
   A. Subcommittee B: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Lane Rayburn, Linda Moorhouse
      1. EP.18.10 Proposal to Establish the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Department and the Clinical Sciences Department at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.
         Meyer provided a brief overview of EP.18.10 making note that the sponsors were in attendance for further clarification if needed. Meyer announced that a COM faculty vote was taken on the proposal that was overwhelmingly passed. He reported that a revision to the proposal is posted to the committee webpage for committee review that addresses all questions raised and noted that there are a few minor editorial corrections that can be made after approval.
         Meyer moved for approval of EP.18.10 Revision 1. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.10 Revision 1 passed unanimously by voice and will appear on the November 13, 2017, Senate agenda.
B. **Subcommittee A:** Randy McCarthy, Chair; David Hanley, Cynthia Buckley, Nolan Miller, Faculty Vacancy, Student Vacancy

1. **EP.18.11 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, from the College of Engineering**

   McCarthy reported that the sponsors are working on a revision to EP.18.11. Further consideration of EP18.11 will be deferred until the next EPC meeting.

C. **Subcommittee C:** Steve Michael, Chair; Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, David Huang, Kathryn LaBarre, Linda Robbennolt, Student Vacancy

1. **EP.18.12 Proposal to Add Philosophy to the List of Majors Available for the BSLAS in Computer Science and a LAS Discipline (CS + X), from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

   Michael provided a brief overview of EP.18.12, making note that the sponsors were in attendance. Proposal sponsor, Professor Kirk Sanders provided a summary of a Q & A for EP.18.12 for further clarification of EP.18.12. Michael advised that a revision was posted to the committee webpage for review that addresses all questions raised by the committee.

   Michael moved for approval of EP.18.12 Revision 1. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.12 Revision 1 passed by voice and will appear on the November 13, 2017, Senate agenda.

2. **EP.18.13 Proposal to Add Economics to the list of Majors Available for the LAS Major in Computer Science and a LAS Discipline (CS + X) from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

   Michael gave a brief overview of EP.18.13 making note that a revision was posted to the committee webpage for committee review that addresses questions raised by the committee.

   Michael moved for approval of EP.18.13. The motion was seconded, and a discussion was held regarding members sharing concern on what is CS doing that relates to the expansions. It was commented that CS + X is mostly designed to add value to the other LAS majors. It was also stated that CS has a formal letter recognizing that we understand resources that allows us to accommodate the CS + X. The policy question was asked if we expect CS + X is going forward to have an integrated experience or shared experience going forward. Chair Miller advised that she will ask Lenny Pitts who spoke to the EPC last year if he feels it would be beneficial to talk with the committee again related to the CS + X.

   There was no further discussion and the motion to approve EP.18.13 passed by voice and will appear on the November 13, 2017, Senate agenda.

7. **New Business**

A. **EP.18.20 Proposed Revisions to Article 3 of the 2017-2018 Student Code**

   Martensen, *ex officio* member of the Conference on Conduct Governance (CCG) committee, provided a brief overview of EP.18.20. She advised that CCG is responsible for drafting amendments to the *Student Code*, subject to final approval by the Chancellor. Minor technical changes or updates are sent directly to the Chancellor for approval. Changes beyond this scope related to academic issues require a formal Senate vote of approval before they are added to the *Student Code*. Martensen explained that over the summer, the chair of CCG, Sara Benson, deemed the two proposed items in EP.18.20 to be beyond the scope of technical changes or updates to academic issues. Therefore, these items are put forward at this time to the EPC for review.

   Martensen provided a summary of the first item to remove § 3-108, Procedures for Review of Instructor’s Ability to Communicate in English. She advised that there was confusion reported with the guidelines of this section from students who feel their instructors may not be able to speak English clearly. She advised that discussion from this originated that the language within the code
seemed outdated and the CCG was asked to do research and found that the policy already addresses this topic with a broader statement for students with concerns about a class and the guidelines on how to handle it. The CCG consulted with faculty affairs in the Office of the Provost who recommended deletion of this subsection. After discussion, the CCG voted unanimously to strike the whole section of the article as it is no longer relevant information. EPC members commented that a more general statement offering protection is shown in multiple places of the Student Code if a student is experiencing difficulty with an instructor and how to seek guidance. It was commented that instructors whose native language is not English are required to take a speaking test before allowed to teach a course, with some failing until an instructor can improve their speaking clarity. Some members thought that the general statement as written would require a majority of students having trouble and suggested that the general statement could be revised to offer more protection. Chair Miller requested that this item is sent back to CCG to consider the feedback expressed by the EPC and further discussion of this item in EP.18.20 will be deferred until the next EPC meeting.

Martensen provided a summary of the second item of EP.18.20, to remove § 3-312, Dropping Courses for Academic Deficiency which was sent to the CCG from the Council of Undergraduate Deans. She advised that we are holding students accountable for their work as there is now course registration online, which is that they are ultimately responsible for their own class schedule, including dropping courses in a timely manner. She advised that the CCG vote was unanimous to drop this.

Additionally, Martensen advised that it states in § 1-501, CLASS ATTENDANCE, All Students, retains the power of the dean to withdraw or fail a student in cases of irregular attendance reported by an instructor if, in consultation with the instructor, it is determined the student’s attendance is so irregular “that the student’s scholarship is likely to be severely impaired. The dean may require the student to withdraw from the course with a grade of Withdrawal or Failure.”

A discussion was held concerning the implications of a dean withdrawing a student could be big enough that would possibly have to justify the withdrawal to a lawyer or parent due to possible complications with student loans, Visa to be in the country, etc. It was commented that if a student were failing, it would be investigated and a decision would be made on what is the most appropriate action to take. It was also stated that a withdrawal could be made retroactive after reviewing based on the reasons for why a student is failing or not attending.

Further discussion was held concerning if a professor cannot withdraw a student, a professor should have the power to block student participation if that student is holding the class back from learning due to not attending regularly.

It was stated that this protection is covered under the class attendance portion in the Student Code and the reason to strike this section is that it is redundant. It was advised that the rule and process are still in the policy and the comment was made that 102 D states that faculty can block a student from participation if a student is causing problems in the class. It was stated that this section addresses two different policies, student disruption, and class attendance.

It was commented that CCG has already published the changes outlined in EP.18.20 as they were unaware of the mechanism of putting forward changes to the Student Code to the Senate. Chair Miller suggested that Martensen provide the basics of our discussions to CCG and report back to EPC on CCG’s findings. Further consideration of EP.18.20 is deferred until the next EPC meeting.

B. **Subcommittee B:** Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Lane Rayburn, Linda Moorhouse

1. **EP.18.15 Proposal to Relocate the M.S. and the Ph.D. in Biology with a Concentration in Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution from the School of Integrative Biology to the Department of Animal Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**
Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.18.15 making note that a revision was posted to the committee webpage for review and that it addresses all concerns raised.

Meyer moved for approval of EP.18.15 Revision 1. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.15 Revision 1 passed by voice and will appear on the November 13, 2017, Senate agenda.

2. **EP.18.16 Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Actuarial Science and Eliminate the Actuarial Science Concentration within the Master of Science in Applied Mathematics, one year after the Master of Science in Actuarial Science is established, College of LAS**

Meyer gave a brief overview of EP.18.16 making note that a revised proposal was posted to the committee webpage for review.

Meyer moved for approval of EP.18.16 Revision 1. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.16 Revision 1 passed by voice and will appear on the November 13, 2017, Senate agenda.

C. **Subcommittee C:** Steve Michael, Chair; Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, David Huang, Kathryn LaBarre, Linda Robbennolt, Student Vacancy

1. **EP.18.18 Proposal to Establish the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences as a Self-Supporting Program from the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences**

Michael gave a brief overview of EP.18.18, making note that S. Rodriguez-Zas and M. Lowry were in attendance for further clarification if needed. Michael requested for all comments to be sent to him and he will forward them to the sponsors along with copying S. Rodriguez-Zas and M. Lowry clarifications. Further consideration of EP.18.18 was deferred until the next EPC meeting.

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

1. **EP.18.19 Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Molecular & Cellular Biology (M.S. in MCB) from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

McCarthy gave a brief overview of EP.18.19 noting that he has only received one minor comment from the committee on the proposal. A discussion was held concerning how the 12 credit hours would appear on the transcript with M. Hazen answering that all credits will show on the transcript as either undergraduate or graduate credits and that it would be beneficial to the student to designate credits to go towards undergraduate and pay for undergraduate tuition versus the graduate tuition cost. It was commented that this is a non-thesis master and it encourages those who want to move on to graduate school but that it is not an admittance to the graduate program as it is intended to be a stand-alone program. The comment was made that there is a distinction between policy and practice; ideally there would be a way to have a specific course to emphasize the intended direction (e.g. laboratory/nonthesis vs further graduate education) of the student.

McCarthy requested that all comments be sent to him as he will forward them to the sponsors for further clarification. Further consideration of EP.18.19 was deferred until the next EPC meeting.

E. **Types of Academic Programs** (K. Martensen)

Martensen distributed and allowed time for personal review of a document on types of academic programs noting that McKinney weighed in on the graduate program portion. A short discussion was held concerning various questions on the content of the document with one comment being
that it would be beneficial to see more information about dual degrees. Chair Miller encouraged the committee to review the document for further discussion at the next EPC meeting.

8. **Adjournment**
   The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

Rachel Park
Senate Office