UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Monday, February 26, 2018
MINUTES

Present: Gay Miller, Chair; Ray Benekohal, Cynthia Buckley, Samantha Frost, Phoebe Handler, David Huang, Randy McCarthy, Eric Meyer, Steve Michael, Nolan Miller, Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, Amanda Yuile
Ex officio: Michel Bellini, Brenda Clevenger, John Hart, Dan Mann, Kathy Martensen,

Absent: Kathryn LaBarre, Linda Moorhouse, Theo Moton
Ex officio: Linda Robbennolt

Guests: Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost & Director; Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean of LAS; Mary Lowry, Assistant Dean, ACES; Adam Fein, Assistant Provost for Educational Innovation; Anna Mehl, Project Coordinator for Educational Innovation; Stephen Downie, Associate Dean for Research, iSchool; Linda Smith, Executive Associate Dean, iSchool; Dean Renear, iSchool; Emily Knox, iSchool

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) was called to order at 1:10 pm on Monday, February 26, 2018, in room 2004 Natural History Building with Chair Gay Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
Guest introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
The approval of the February 12, 2018 meeting minutes was deferred until the next EPC meeting.

3. Chair’s Remarks (G. Miller)
Chair Miller introduced the agenda item, a DRAFT statement on the Land-Grant mission and the Public Contract and anticipates that a version of this statement will go before the Senate next week. She circulated two articles from the News-Gazette that draw attention to aspects of the IBHE and how they are influencing what may happen to the state appropriations for our University. As she has mentioned to the committee previously, at the February IBHE-FAC meeting, FAC requested that Senates make a statement in support of providing for stable funding for higher education. She announced that the IBHE made recommendations to the governor for funding for higher education, which was substantially below the requests for funding made by the public university Presidents. She explained that due to GUP’s charge that includes budget components, she reached out to the GUP chair, Nick Burbules. She announced that she, Nick Burbules, and Joyce Tolliver developed the statement. The GUP was not able to meet after the statement was developed, but that she is bringing it to the committee and hopes that the Committee will discuss and consider it in today’s meeting. Chair Miller announced that the Senate Appropriations committee would consider higher education funding at their meeting April 5, so it would be positive if the Senate supported the statement at the March Senate meeting.

Chair Miller also circulated an article on the Tyranny of Metrics. This topic has been previously discussed by EPC, and it continues to be a major concern, and she and many faculty think about it every time we have to complete annual review reports or external review reports where all that seems to matter are numbers for bean counters. The recent Chronicle article continues to highlight related challenges. She advised that she brings this topic before EPC because she feels that EPC are one of the bodies of the academy that cares a lot about quality aspects of our university.
Lastly, Chair Miller encouraged members to respond to the Provost’s invitation to provide feedback on our new budgeting model. The EPC regularly considers budgetary aspects of proposals, and look for budget-related implications; for example:

- How will the unit be paying for what they are proposing?
  - What revenues are anticipated?
  - Are other units impacted in ways that will increase their costs? Or use more faculty/staff/student time?
  - What are the pros and cons of online education and when and where is this the best approach for our academy (faculty, staff, and students)?

Chair Miller advised that each member has had some experience with at least these aspects of budget considerations. She encouraged members to read and provide comment based on what you think will provide for the University to improve what we do, who we are, and how we will meet the needs of the university and our stakeholders for the next ten years. Below is the link to view the new budget model.

http://provost.illinois.edu/budget/budget-reform/integrated-value-centered-budgeting/

EPC members requested that this topic is placed on the agenda for the next EPC meeting.

4. Office of the Provost Updates and Administrative Approvals EP.18.50 (K. Martensen)
There were no updates from the Provost’s Office, and Martensen gave a brief overview of EP.18.50, the administrative approvals through February 26, 2018. No further discussion was held, and EP.18.50 was approved by unanimous consent and will appear on the March 5, 2018, Senate agenda as a Report.

5. Graduate College Updates (J. Hart)
No updates were given.

6. Old Business

A. **Subcommittee B**: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Linda Moorhouse, Phoebe Handler

1. EP.18.31 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences from the School of Information Sciences
Meyer provided a brief overview of EP.18.31 and announced that sponsors were attending for further clarification if needed. Meyer advised that a revised proposal has been posted for the committee’s review that answers members questions. Sponsors spoke offering further clarification on staffing, assuring that they are expanding the advising and support for students. Dean Renear is working with the Departments of Communication and Media and Cinema Studies to secure support letters and are scheduled to meet again soon.

The sponsors advised that the discipline is based in library science and documentation with an emphasis on how people interact with technology. Sponsors are more focused on how this type of technology is implemented to solve problems. The sponsors also informed that they are anticipating 50 students to start and do not expect that the degree program will grow fast or large.

It was the consensus of the committee to defer further consideration of EP.18.31 until support letters could be produced by the Department of Communication and the College of Media, considering the Media and Cinema Studies Department could be most impacted.

B. **Subcommittee C**: Steve Michael, Chair; Rahul Raju, Ann Reisner, David Huang, Kathryn LaBarre, Linda Robbennolt, ex-officio
1. **EP.18.28 Proposal to Establish the Master of Sustainable Urban Design as a Self-Supporting Program from the College of Fine and Applied Arts**

Michael gave a brief overview of EP.18.28 advising that it is a revenue-generating masters program. Michael advised that a revision has been posted for the committee’s review that answers questions raised by the committee.

Michael moved for approval of EP.18.28. The motion was seconded, and further discussion was held concerning some members suggesting that a clause be inserted into the justification stating that this does not give a license for the credential. Michael offered clarification by advising that the proposal describes that it is required to have a bachelor related to the design and that this is to enhance their degree and does not warrant a license.

The discussion was also held concerning a member requesting three letters of support or acknowledgment from Urban Planning, Architecture, and Geography. Michael advised the committee that he will request the letters for further consideration of EP.18.28 at the next EPC meeting. It was encouraged to have Bill Sullivan attend also.

2. **EP.18.38 Proposal to Establish the LAS International Partner High School Program from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

No discussion was held.

3. **EP.18.40 Proposal to Revise the BALAS in Geography and Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Establish the BSLAS in GIS from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

No discussion was held.

C. **Subcommittee A:** Randy McCarthy, Chair; Cynthia Buckley, Nolan Miller, Samantha Frost, Andrianna Kurzenberger, Amanda Yuile

1. **EP.18.42 Proposal to Revise the MA in Portuguese and Establish the concentration in Brazilian Studies within the MA in Portuguese from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

No discussion was held.

D. **EP.18.43 2024-2025 Academic Calendar**
E. **EP.18.44 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**
F. **EP.18.45 2026-2027 Academic Calendar**
G. **EP.18.46 2027-2028 Academic Calendar**

Chair Miller provided a brief overview of EP.18.43, EP.18.44, EP.18.45, and EP.18.46 and advised that the Academic Calendars are constructed by the Senate Clerk, in which she as Chair of the EPC has carefully reviewed. Michael distributed a handout of an amendment to EP.18.43 and EP.18.44 suggesting that the Committee separates the proposals to offer careful review and suggested amendments. The amendment handout was discussed which suggested that spring vacation should start earlier as the proposed calendar proposal divides the semester into 9 week component and a 5 week component. The suggested amendment divides the term more equally into approximately 7 week components.

A robust discussion was held. Many departments, and colleges use half-semester (7-8 week) courses, and many faculty use the spring break as an informal dividing line for their course material, to separate the first half of the course material from the second half. It was discussed that moving the break up a week is best because that provides 8 weeks of instruction prior to break for a smoother transition for the half-semester courses. Yuile also stated that a week of instruction followed by spring break is more of a challenge for students who just get started in a course, and then take a break, to remember that content when it comes to the finals that apply at the end of spring semester.
The motion was made to amend and approve EP.18.43 and EP.18.44 by moving spring break up by one week to accomplish 8 weeks of instruction prior to spring break and 7 weeks of instruction after. The motion was seconded. No further discussion was held. The motion to amend EP.18.43 and EP.18.44 by moving up spring break by one week passed by voice with one abstention and will appear on the March 5, 2018, Senate agenda.

The same situation existed was observed for EP.18.45 and EP.18.46. The same motion to amend was made for EP.18.45 and EP.18.46. The motion was passed by voice with one abstention and will appear on the March 5, 2018, Senate agenda.

H. EP.18.47 2028-2029 Academic Calendar
I. EP.18.48 2029-2030 Academic Calendar

Chair Miller introduced proposals EP.18.47 and EP.18.48 and made note that these both have a shortened winter session. There is only one four-hour course offered during winter session, and the rest are three-hour courses. It was the consensus of the committee to defer discussion of these two proposals until Adam Fein or Kevin Pitts can attend to contribute to the discussion as the committee discusses the implementations of a three week winter session. It was stated that there are positive reports on the recent winter session that was held. Chair Miller informed the committee that she has previously asked for a winter session report and this will also help inform the discussion. Further discussion on EP.18.47 and EP.18.48 is deferred until the next EPC meeting.

7. New Business
A. Statement on the Land Grant Mission and the Public Contract (Chair Miller)
Chair Miller provided a brief overview of a DRAFT statement on the Land-Grant mission and the Public Contract and anticipated that a version of this statement will go before the Senate next week.

A discussion was held with members suggesting to include statements related to the diversity of students and serving students of all economic backgrounds. It was also suggested to make it clear that the University now relies on tuition as state funding has declined and that the statement should include some aspects that relate to mission/core ideals. Chair Miller invited members to email her suggestions and made the motion for EPC support of the statement. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to support the statement passed by voice with Chair Miller bringing it to SEC.

B. Subcommittee B: Eric Meyer, Chair; Theo Moton, Ray Benekohal, Linda Moorhouse, Phoebe Handler

1. EP.18.49 Proposal to Eliminate the Center for Digital Inclusion from the School of Information Sciences
Meyer provided a brief overview of EP.18.49 and welcomed sponsors that were in attendance for further clarification if needed. The sponsors advised the iSchool community has evolved considerably since the CDI was awarded its five-year probationary status as a center. Many of the faculty members and students who were involved in the day-to-day running of CDI have moved to other institutions, retired, are working on other research projects, etc. The current iSchool and CDI stakeholders have determined that the resources and overhead needed to maintain the CDI as a center would be better allocated to new endeavors and projects in the broader diversity, equity and inclusion domains. Chair Miller encouraged sponsors to revise the proposal by replacing language that gives better justification as explained above.
The motion was made to approve EP.18.49 pending a minor revision of adding justification language. The motion was seconded, and no further discussion was held. The motion to approve EP.18.49 pending the minor revision passed by voice with one abstention.

8. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm

Rachel Park  
Senate Office