11-22-2016

Minutes, November 22, 2016
I. Approval of Minutes from 10/11/16

- approved

II. Business

A. Articulate EPC’s role in semester transition

- EPC reviewed a draft policy statement by Fowler and Snowball. The draft proposes that all programs submit fairly detailed plans for their major, minor or certificate; they would submit a course list with descriptions akin to catalog copy, but that they not submit individual course approval forms. It further proposed formal programmatic reviews to begin a year or two after the transition is complete, but it did not propose any details under the assumption that that decision is best made by a future EPC.

- There was broad agreement on the principles articulated above.

- There was broad agreement that a second draft of the statement should
  
o Consolidate the list of questions for the departments so that departments could offer compact narrative responses.
  
o Include the option of a curriculum-mapping template
  
o Encourage departments to offer requirements that leaner rather than larger; perhaps include the requirement that majors which exceed a certain credit threshold explain (1) why and (2) how it will impact the ability of their students to complete another major or minor.
  
o Address the need to incorporate assessment strategies
  
o Provide a targeted length for the document (perhaps 5-10 pages?) and individual sections to help departments pace themselves
  
o Address the program's engagement with the larger curriculum, e.g., Gen Ed and interdisciplinary programs
  
o Request an explanation of how the redesign will affect the department’s staffing needs
  
o Review the program in F/W 17-18, designate new courses to be reviewed at a later time

- Before next Tuesday’s meeting, the chair will share a revised document and template.

B. New course proposals

- MUSC 304: How Music and Physics Collide - approved
- LTAM 330: Environment and Health in Central America - approved

C. Environmental Studies major and minor

- Widespread support for the outlined changes; formal vote will occur after reviewing the detailed proposal (which Snowball forgot to share, in consequence of which ...)
- David is bringing chocolate.

D. GenEd proposal to rename the Foreign Language requirement as the Second Language Requirement.

- Approved.

David Snowball, Interim EPC Chair

Submitted by Shara Stough