

11-22-2016

Minutes, November 22, 2016

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Educational Policies Committee

Minutes, 11/22/16
4:30 p.m., Old Main 127

Present: Faculty: Jason Mahn, Ann Ericson, Taddy Kalas, Brian Leech, Jayne Rose (for Dave Dehnel), David Snowball, Forrest Stonedahl, Shara Stough, James Van Howe .

Students: ~~Christopher Saladin~~, Michelle Henry, ~~Jacob Deves-Roy~~, ~~Samantha DeForest-Davis~~

Ex Officio Members: ~~Liesl Fowler~~ (Susan Granet), Wendy Hilton-Morrow, Mike Egan

Start Time: 4:32

End Time: 5:35

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
 - Consolidate the list of questions for the departments so that departments could offer compact narrative responses.
 - Include the option of a curriculum-mapping template
 - 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.
 - Address the need to incorporate assessment strategies
 - Provide a targeted length for the document (perhaps 5-10 pages?) and individual sections to help departments pace themselves
 - Address the program's engagement with the larger curriculum, e.g., Gen Ed and interdisciplinary programs
 - Request an explanation of how the redesign will affect the department's staffing needs
 - 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