



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 16 February 2015

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley (representing Todd A. Diacon); Deans James K. Bracken, Barbara A. Broome, John R. Crawford, Eboni J. Pringle, Robert G. Sines, Deborah F. Spake, Mary Ann P. Stephens, Wanda E. Thomas; Associate Deans Joanne M. Arhar, Janis H. Crowther, Catherine E. Hackney, Mary Ann Haley (representing James L. Blank), LuEtt J. Hanson (representing herself and Dean AnnMarie LeBlanc), Cynthia R. Stillings; Director Robert A. Walker

Ex-officio Members not present (or represented): Faculty Senate Chair Donna (Lee) L. Fox-Cardamone; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, Donald F. Palmer, Douglas L. Steidl; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans John (Jack) R. Graham, I. Richmond Nettey, William T. Willoughby; Assistant Dean Thomas E. Klingler

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Thomas Janson, Kathryn A. Kerns, Roberto M. Uribe-Rendon, Donald L. White; Assistant Professor Terrence L. Uber

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or represented): Professors Richard Feinberg, Fred T. Smith; Associate Professors William C. Ward III, Christopher A. Was, Linda L. Williams

Council Representatives present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Ann F. Jacobson, David H. Kaplan; Associate Professors Thomas W. Brewer, Robert E. Cimera, Athena Salaba, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Tina D. Bhargava, Mary A. Mooney, Belinda S. Zimmerman; Lecturer Timothy A. Roberts (representing Danielle S. Coombs)

Council Representatives not present (or represented): Associate Professors John C. Duncan, Michael Ensley, Pamela K. Evans, John A. Marino, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Denice Sheehan; Assistant Professors Jonathan P. Fleming, Debra S. Shelestak; David (Blake) Stringer

Observers present: Graduate Student Senate Vice Executive Chair Fritz W. Yarrison

Observers not present: Undergraduate Student Government Academic Affairs Director Michelle A. Crisler

Consultants and Guests present: Jacqueline W. Curtis, Julie A. Gabella, Willie J. Harrell, Mary B. Hogue, Lynette Johnson, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Alyssa S. Kyff, Yza Y. Melvin, Mandy J. Munro-Stasiuk, Jennifer N. McDonough, Alexander W. Moore, Gail M. Rebata, Elizabeth A. Sinclair, Katherine (Katie) J. Smith, Kathleen J. Spicer, Linnea A. Stafford, Pamela L. Stephenson, Therese E. Tillett, Whitney E. Wenger

Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m., on Monday, 16 February 2015, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of minutes of 26 January 2015.

Assistant Professor Tina D. Bhargava moved for approval of the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Professor Thomas Janson. No changes or corrections were requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Revision of grading policies and procedures to update language, clarify practice and bring consistency with other policies.

Associate Provost Tankersley introduced the item and summarized the proposal. Professor Janson made a motion for approval of the item, which was seconded by Associate Dean LuEtt J. Hanson.

In response to questions from EPC members, Associate Provost Tankersley clarified that the university grading policies and procedures are distinct from the specific progression and graduation requirements that academic units establish for their programs.

With no further questions or discussion, the item was passed unanimously by members.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Revision of undergraduate minors policy to address residence, upper-division credit, major/minor combinations and associate degree students.

Assistant Dean Elizabeth A. Sinclair introduced the item on behalf of the Associate and Assistant (A&A) Deans Committee. She noted the proposal represents the effort of an A&A Deans subcommittee with the primary objective to construct a policy that provides a standardization and baseline of minimum requirements and is attainable for a university with such diverse program offerings.

Associate Dean Joanne M. Arhar seconded a motion made by Associate Dean Hanson to move the item for approval.

An EPC member voiced his opinion that a university minimum requirement of only 6 upper-division credit hours for minors would limit the ability of students who declare a minor to study a particular subject area in depth. Associate Provost Tankersley clarified that academic units could require more than 6 upper-division credit hours in a minor, but that 6 upper-division credit hours would represent the university minimum for all minors.

An EPC member who served on the A&A Deans subcommittee stated that a more extensive upper-division credit hour requirement for minors may have ramifications for student matriculation. She summarized the rationale given by the subcommittee for this requirement, including concerns that upper-division courses are not offered as frequently and have prerequisites that may make it difficult for non-majors to satisfy. The EPC member also shared the subcommittee consensus that minors serve different purposes—some minors offer depth in one subject, while other minors offer breadth of inter-multidisciplinary study.

An EPC member asked for clarification regarding the unique hour requirement in the proposed policy. Assistant Dean Sinclair responded that, in order to justify the additional credential, a student would need to complete 6 credit hours toward the requirements for a minor that are distinct from the credit hours applying to the student's declared major(s) or other minor. After some discussion, the EPC member voiced his opinion that a 6 unique credit hour requirement seemed to be a reasonable compromise.

Another EPC member who served on the A&A Deans subcommittee voiced her opinion that the revised policy was a well-crafted compromise between very different viewpoints; she stated that no one on the subcommittee walked away from the discussions feeling as though he/she “got everything they wanted.”

An EPC member shared that the policy revisions would ensure that students who seek minors are advised consistently and fairly across different academic units. Another EPC member clarified that, if the policy revisions are approved, existing minors will need to be revised so that they meet the new university minimum requirements. In response to a request for clarification about associate degree-seeking students, Assistant Dean Sinclair summarized the perspective of A&A Deans Committee members—because Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees (as well as the Associate of Technical Study degree—individualized program) do not have majors, the ability to declare a minor does not fit with the intention to allow students to use a minor to enhance or compliment a major.

Members passed the item unanimously with no further questions or discussion.

Graduate EPC Action Item 1: Establishment of Master of Geographic Information Science [MGIS] degree, to be offered 100 percent online only. The Geographic Information Science [GIS] major comprises three concentrations: CyberGIS [GISC], Environmental Geographic Information Science [GISE], Geographic Information Science and Health [GISH]. Included in proposal is establishment of 10 courses and revision to three courses. Minimum total credit hours to program completion are 32.

Associate Dean Janice H. Crowther introduced the item and made a motion for approval, seconded by Associate Dean Cynthia R. Stillings.

An EPC member stated that the proposal summary included justification for the creation of the program, rather than a description of the proposal itself. With further no questions or discussion, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item 2: Establishment of Geographic Information Science [C611] post-baccalaureate certificate, to be offered 100 percent online only. Minimum total credit hours to program completion are 17.

Associate Dean Crowther introduced the item. Her motion for approval was seconded by Professor Roberto M. Uribe-Rendon. With no questions or discussion, the item passed unanimously.

Associate Provost Tankersley adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie J. Smith
Academic Program Coordinator, Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost