



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 20 April 2015

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Provost Todd A. Diacon; Faculty Senate Chair Donna (Lee) L. Fox-Cardamone; Deans James L. Blank (represented by Mary Ann Haley), James K. Bracken, Barbara A. Broome, John R. Crawford, Donald F. Palmer, Eboni J. Pringle, Robert G. Sines, Deborah F. Spake, Douglas L. Steidl (also representing William T. Willoughby), Mary Ann P. Stephens; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans Joanne M. Arhar, Janis H. Crowther, Robert D. Hisrich, John (Jack) R. Graham (also representing Sonia A. Alemagno), Catherine E. Hackney, LuEtt J. Hanson (also representing AnnMarie LeBlanc), I. Richmond Nettey, Cynthia R. Stillings; Director Robert A. Walker

Ex-officio Members not present (or represented): Dean Wanda E. Thomas; Assistant Dean Thomas E. Klingler

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Richard Feinberg, Thomas Janson, Kathryn A. Kerns, Fred T. Smith, Roberto M. Uribe-Rendon, Donald L. White; Associate Professors Christopher A. Was, Linda L. Williams

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or represented): Associate Professor William C. Ward III; Assistant Professor Terrence L. Uber

Council Representatives present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Ann F. Jacobson; Associate Professors Thomas W. Brewer, Robert E. Cimera, John C. Duncan, Michael Ensley, Pamela K. Evans, John A. Marino, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Tina D. Bhargava, Danielle S. Coombs, Debra S. Shelestak, Pamela L. Stephenson, Belinda S. Zimmerman

Council Representatives not present (or represented): Professor David H. Kaplan; Associate Professors Athena Salaba, Denice Sheehan; Assistant Professors Jonathan P. Fleming, Mary A. Mooney, 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: Susan Augustine, Alan A. Brandyberry, Julie Gabella, Willie J. Harrell, Lynette Johnson, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Alyssa S. Kyff, Jennifer McDonough, Yza Y. Melvin, Alexander W. Moore, Tracey M. Motter, O. Felix Offodile, Johanna E. Pionke, Matthew M. Rollyson, Katherine (Katie) J. Smith, Charity L. Snyder, Kathleen J. Spicer, Linnea A. Stafford, Melody J. Tankersley, Therese E. Tillett, Whitney E. Wenger

Provost Todd A. Diacon called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., on Monday, 20 April 2015, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of minutes of 16 March 2015.

Dean Donald F. Palmer moved for approval of the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Associate Dean Catherine E. Hackney. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Revision of Catalog Rights and Exclusions policy to update language, clarify practice, allow consistent application, remove barriers for student success and bring consistency with other policies and procedures.

Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley introduced the item on behalf of the EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies. She summarized the proposal and indicated that its purpose is to make clear the policies and procedures related to students' officially declared catalog years, which significantly determine graduation requirements for academic programs. Complicated items in the existing policy contradict each other and lead to confusion among students, faculty and staff. This confusion leads to inconsistent application of the policy for students in similar situations, as well as inconsistencies related to the university's policies and procedures for student reenrollment. Nontraditional students, in particular, are adversely affected by the existing policy, as they are currently required to update to the current catalog if they have not completed degree requirements within six years despite continuous enrollment at the university.

Associate Provost Tankersley highlighted some of the specific changes requested in the proposal. Revisions include the addition of a statement that Kent State will not permit reentry into programs that are no longer offered at the time of the student's most recent readmission, reinstatement or reenrollment, and the removal of the requirement that continuously enrolled students who do not complete degree requirements within six years must update to the current Catalog.

Assistant Professor Debra S. Shelestak made a motion for approval of the item, which was seconded by Associate Dean Cynthia R. Stillings.

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

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Revision of Dismissal, Appeal and Reinstatement policies to, among the changes, allow students to be dismissed in their first semester, to lower the GPA range for dismissal review, to revise the deadline date for an appeal, and to clarify that students may be reinstated to the university, but not into a particular program.

Associate Provost Tankersley introduced the item on behalf of the EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies. She explained that prior to 2010, students with a GPA below 0.500 at the end of the first semester or less than a 2.000 at the end of the second semester were considered for dismissal. In 2010, a new policy to increase student retention was passed, and since then these students have not been considered for dismissal. Data from the past five years indicate that retaining these poor performing students has not increased their likelihood for graduation, but has increased their default on federal loans and Kent State's bad debt.

Associate Provost Tankersley also described how another stipulation added to the dismissal policy in 2010 indicated that the provost would not dismiss students with less than 15 GPA hours (comprising only Kent State graded courses). Kent State's regional campuses enroll a high percentage of part-time undergraduate students, and the 15-hour condition makes it possible for students to have multiple terms with a low cumulative GPA before they are reviewed for academic dismissal.

She reviewed the changes requested by the EPC Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Policies as outlined in the proposal, including revisions to conditions for dismissal; a reduction in the number of days in which students have to appeal their dismissal; and the addition of language clarifying that students who are reinstated to the university after dismissal may not be able to re-enroll in a specific program with selective admission standards.

Associate Professor Pamela K. Evans made a motion for approval of the item, which was seconded by Professor Fred T. Smith.

An EPC member asked if consideration for dismissal after only the first semester conflicted with any existing university policies. Associate Provost Tankersley noted that dismissal procedures, including the right to appeal, will still be in place for students who will now be considered for dismissal after the first semester. Associate Provost Tankersley also clarified that, with the proposed revisions, a new freshman with a 0.400 GPA at the end of the first semester would be eligible for dismissal, and would no longer have the opportunity to return to the university on academic probation the next semester as they have in the past.

An EPC consultant asked about the automation of the dismissal process and the use of the word “consider” in the policy. Associate Provost Tankersley responded that, although dismissal is automated to ensure consistency across academic units, levels of review exist and final authority to dismiss students lies with the provost. The EPC consultant also expressed concern about the reduction in the number of days in which students have to appeal their dismissal. Associate Provost Tankersley indicated that the proposed reduction allows the university more time to process, review and respond to appeals before the start of the text term, and that the reduced window is still longer than the timeframe students have to file formal academic complaints.

In response to another question from an EPC member about the meaning of the words “consider for dismissal” as they relate to the right of students to appeal, Associate Provost Tankersley invited Assistant Dean Charity L. Snyder to speak about Kent State’s current dismissal procedures. Assistant Dean Snyder indicated that decisions to approve or deny a student dismissal appeal are made by the student’s academic college.

An EPC member requested clarification about how the GPA recalculation provisions in the course repeat policy affect dismissal criteria. Assistant Dean Snyder responded that the GPA used to inform dismissal is the GPA listed on the student’s official transcript for the term under review.

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

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 2: Establishment of College Credit Plus policy to replace the Dual Credit and The Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program (PSEOP) policies.

Dean Eboni J. Pringle introduced the item and summarized the proposal. As a result of House Bill 487, passed in July 2014, changes made to the Ohio Revised Code necessitate an update in the University Catalog regarding the awarding of credit to middle and high school students.

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program (PSEOP) and dual credit have been replaced by College Credit Plus, effective for the 2015-2016 academic year. Dean Pringle explained that all Ohio public universities are required to participate in College Credit Plus and comply with each component of the new legislation, all of which are outlined within the proposal.

Dean Donald F. Palmer moved for approval of the item, which was seconded by Dean Pringle.

Provost Diacon reiterated that this proposal is a legislative mandate that Kent State must adopt to remain in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

In response to questions from EPC members, Dean Pringle and Johanna E. Pionke, Director of the Dual Enrollment Program, briefly reviewed how the existing PSEOP and dual credit programs are funded, how the existing programs are administered and the various ways in which students are able to access the college-level opportunities provided by the programs.

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

Graduate EPC Action Item 1: Establishment of policy for undergraduate students who want to enroll in graduate courses.

Dean Mary Ann P. Stephens introduced the item and summarized the proposal, which establishes a policy governing undergraduate students enrolling in graduate courses. Currently, undergraduate students obtain information related to enrollment in graduate courses through the Permission for Undergraduate Students to Enroll in Graduate Courses form. The proposed policy establishes enrollment parameters and will provide guidance and information to students above and beyond what is outlined unofficially within the form.

Professor Thomas Janson moved for approval of the item, which was seconded by Professor Michael W. Chunn.

An EPC consultant asked if the restriction of enrollment in graduate courses to undergraduate students who have earned a minimum of 90 semester hours would have an adverse impact on students in the Honors College, who often use graduate coursework to fulfill college requirements.

In response to a question from an EPC member, Dean Stephens explained the difference between an undergraduate student who wants to enroll in graduate courses, and an undergraduate student who is taking graduate-level coursework through a combined bachelor's/master's degree program.

In response to a question from an EPC member, Dean Stephens clarified that graduate courses can only be applied toward undergraduate program requirements by exception. She also clarified that students must obtain the permission of the instructor of the graduate course in order to enroll.

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

Graduate EPC Action Item 2: Revision of Multiple Degrees policy, now called Graduate Dual Degrees.

Dean Mary Ann P. Stephens introduced the item and summarized the proposal, which seeks to revise a policy in order to clarify the purpose of dual graduate degrees and to describe their characteristics. The proposed policy will distinguish between formal (university approved) and informal dual degree programs, address admission procedures for dual degree programs, and revise the restrictions governing the amount of credit hours that may be "double counted" in dual degree programs.

Associate Dean LuEtt J. Hanson moved for approval of the item, which was seconded by Associate Dean Catherine E. Hackney.

In response to a question from an EPC member, Dean Stephens explained that revisions to the Transfer of Graduate Credit policy, approved by EPC at the May 2014 meeting, restrict the applicability of credits earned as part of a completed graduate degree. Per the Transfer of Graduate Credit policy, students are not able to apply credit earned as part of a previously awarded degree toward the requirements for a consecutive degree. The current proposal, however, seeks to permit students concurrently enrolled in dual graduate programs to “double count” a maximum percentage of credit hours (40 percent). She clarified that formal dual degree programs are exempt from this restriction but must first have their existence approved by the university.

An EPC member asked how common it is for graduate students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. Dean Stephens shared her perspective that it is more common for students to pursue formal (university approved) rather than informal dual graduate degrees.

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

Graduate EPC Action Item 3: Establishment of Business Analytics [BA] major within the Master of Science [MS] degree. Included in the proposal is establishment of one CS and five MIS courses and revision of two IAKM and seven MIS courses.

Dean Deborah F. Spake introduced the item and summarized the proposal, which seeks to establish a Business Analytics major within the Master of Science degree that will provide students with the skills necessary to meet the growing data analytics needs of businesses.

Associate Dean LuEtt J. Hanson moved for approval of the item, which was seconded by Director Robert A. Walker.

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

With no further questions or discussion, Provost Diacon adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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