



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 20 March 2017

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Todd Diacon; Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, James K. Bracken, Barbara A. Broome, Eboni J. Pringle, Amy L. Reynolds; Interim Deans Nathan Ritchey, Robert Sines; Associate Deans Alicia R. Crowe (representing Interim Dean Mark A. Kretovics), Janis H. Crowther, Mary Ann Haley (representing Dean James L. Blank), Stephen A. Mitchell, Cynthia Stillings (representing Dean John R. Crawford-Spinelli), Wendy A. Umberger; Interim Associate Dean Danielle S. Coombs; Assistant Dean Elizabeth Sinclair-Colando (representing Dean Deborah F. Spake); Assistant Director Susan R. Peti (representing Interim Director Jeffrey W. Fruit)

Ex-officio Members not present (or represented): Dean Mark S. Mistur, Melody J. Tankersley; Interim Dean Donald F. Palmer; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans Robert D. Hisrich, I. Richmond Nettey, William T. Willoughby; Assistant Dean Kenneth J. Burhanna

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professor Donald L. White; Assistant Professor Terrence L. Uber

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or represented): Professors Jay M. Jahangiri, Susan J. Roxburgh, Robin R. Selinger; Associate Professors Soumitra Basu, Farid S. Fouad; Assistant Professors Vinay K. Cheruvu, James E. Seelye

Council Representatives present (or represented): Associate Professors Catherine E. Goodall, Jan C. Leach, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Zhiqiang M. Wang, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Insook Kim, James D. (Derek) Kingsley, Mary A. Mooney, David B. (Blake) Stringer, Yafen Wang

Council Representatives not present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Richard Meindle, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Pamela K. Evans, Richard L. Mangrum, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Stacy R. Rose, Robert D. Sturr; Assistant Professors Jonathan P. Fleming, Debra S. Shelestak

Observers present: Graduate Student Senate Finance Chair Suparna M. Navale

Observers not present: Undergraduate Student Government Director of Academic Affairs Natalia Roman

Consultants and Guests present: Susan M. Augustine, Larry G. Froehlich, Julie Gabella, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Lindsey B. Millan, Susan R. Perry, Jennifer L. Rogers, Therese E. Tillet, Aimee VanDomelen, Catherine M. Zingrone

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Todd A. Diacon called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m., on Monday, 20 March 2017, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of 20 February 2017 meeting minutes.

Assistant Professor Terrence L. Uber moved for approval of the minutes and was seconded by Dean Barbara A. Broome. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Establishment of a two-day break in October, and revision of Thanksgiving break to become three full days in November.

Associate Dean Alicia R. Crowe moved for approval of the item, and the motion was seconded by Dean Eboni J. Pringle. Provost Diacon presented the item on behalf of Senior Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley to establish a fall break with a two-day class recess to be implemented on the Thursday and Friday of the eighth week of the semester, and to establish the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a full day class break. The proposal requests that all classes be canceled during the fall break and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, on all campuses but all offices and student support offices will be open. Students currently have nearly 11-weeks of uninterrupted classes in the fall between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. For students, this is a really long time to go without having a break, especially for new students who are adjusting to their new surroundings and distance from home.

After examining the Kent State student well-being data, the need for an intentional fall break became clear. The data showed that in late September through October, student need for medical and mental health care peaked. Data is consistent with other institutions across the country, as well as internationally. The implementation of a fall break will help to address this concern.

A committee of representatives from faculty and academic administrators from across the university collaborated to bring forth this proposal. The committee reviewed class data and timing and felt the least instructional impact would be to implement a Thursday-Friday fall break.

An EPC member asked how the shortening of the fall semester to 14 weeks of class time would not violate the state of Ohio's regulation of a 15-17 week semester. Executive Director Therese Tillet responded that with how the state calculates weeks, Kent State's fall semester will still be 16 weeks from start (first day of classes) to finish (last day of exams). The EPC member was concerned with the amount of class time that will be lost and the difference in class days between the fall and spring semester. Provost Diacon acknowledged the member's concern but stated that the way the weeks in the semester are calculated has not changed.

An EPC member asked if there was any rationale or thought on shortening the spring semester to keep the semesters the same length. Executive Director Tillet stated that the committee did look at various calendar options and, since the university runs on a full calendar, the entire academic calendar would need to be changed to make the fall and spring semesters the same length, which would cause a rippling effect to a lot of areas. Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith concurred with Executive Director Tillet about the effects of changing the academic calendar and added that some changes would also extend the faculty contract period, which would lead to negotiations with AAUP.

An EPC member stated that in order for their college to be accredited they must teach a certain amount of material for the students to be prepared to take their board tests. If there is not enough class time, the students will be required to learn material on their own. Provost Diacon acknowledged that for some areas, a fall break will affect how some courses are taught.

Provost Diacon asked if there were any additional questions or discussion, and with none called for a vote. The verbal vote was not unanimous so a card vote was called for. There were 22 cards for the motion and four cards against the motion. The item was passed.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Inactivation of Allied Health Management Technology [AHMT] major within the Associate of Technical Study [ATS] degree. The degree program, offered fully online and at the Trumbull Campus, has no dedicated faculty and low enrollment and completion since it was established in 2008.

Associate Dean Cynthia R. Stillings motion for approval of the item was seconded by Interim Dean Nathan P. Ritchey. Interim Dean Ritchey asked that Associate Professor Larry G. Froehlich present the items. Associate Professor Froehlich stated that enrollment never developed as anticipated for the three programs (action items 1-3). There are a few students that will need to be notified about the inactivation of the programs, and they can easily be migrated to another, more robust program to finish their degree.

Members did not have any additional questions or discussion, and the item was passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 2: Inactivation of Emergency Medical Services Technology [EMST] major within the Associate of Technical Study [ATS] degree. The degree program, offered at the Trumbull Campus, has no dedicated faculty and low enrollment over the past several years.

A motion for approval of the item by Interim Dean Robert G. Sines Jr. was seconded by Dean Amy L. Reynolds.

Members did not have any questions, and the item was passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 3: Inactivation of Industrial Trades Technology [ITTN] major within the Associate of Technical Study [ATS] degree. The degree program, offered at the Trumbull Campus, has no dedicated faculty and low enrollment and completion over the past several years.

Dean Sonia A. Alemagno moved for approval of the item, and the motion was seconded by Dean Broome.

Members did not have any questions, and the item passed unanimously.

With no requests for additional discussion, Provost Diacon adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer L. Rogers

Administrative Secretary, Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost