



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 17 April 2017

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Todd A. Diacon; Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, James L. Blank, James K. Bracken, John R. Crawford-Spinelli, Mark S. Mistur, Eboni J. Pringle, Deborah F. Spake, Melody J. Tankersley; Interim Deans Mark A. Kretovics, Donald F. Palmer, Nathan Ritchey, Robert Sines; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans Janis H. Crowther, Stephen A. Mitchell, I. Richmond Nettey, Cynthia Stillings, William T. Willoughby; Assistant Dean Matthew M. Rollyson (representing Dean Amy L. Reynolds); Interim Director Jeffrey W. Fruit; Assistant Director Susan R. Peti

Ex-officio Members not present (or represented): Dean Barbara A. Broome; Associate Deans Alicia R. Crowe, Robert D. Hisrich, Wendy A. Umberger; Interim Associate Dean Danielle S. Coombs; Assistant Dean Kenneth J. Burhanna

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Susan J. Roxburgh, Robin R. Selinger, Donald L. White; Associate Professor Farid S. Fouad

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or represented): Professor Jay M. Jahangiri; Associate Professor Soumitra Basu; Assistant Professors Vinay K. Cheruvu, James E. Seelye, Terrence L. Uber

Council Representatives present (or represented): Associate Professors Pamela K. Evans, Catherine E. Goodall, Jan C. Leach, Robert D. Sturr, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Zhiqiang M. Wang; Assistant Professors Insook Kim, James D. (Derek) Kingsley, Mary A. Mooney, Yafen Wang

Council Representatives not present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Richard Meindle, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Richard L. Mangrum, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Stacy R. Rose, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Jonathan P. Fleming, Debra S. Shelestak, David B. (Blake) Stringer

Observers present: Graduate Student Senate Finance Chair Suparna M. Navale; Undergraduate Student Government Director of Academic Affairs Natalia Roman

Consultants and Guests present: Susan M. Augustine, Larry G. Froehlich, Mary Ann Haley, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Susan R. Perry, Jennifer L. Rogers, Kathleen J. Spicer, Linnea A. Stafford, Therese E. Tillett, Aimee VanDomelen, Catherine M. Zingrone

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Todd A. Diacon called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., on Monday, 17 April 2017, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

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

Interim Dean Donald F. Palmer moved for approval of the minutes and was seconded by Interim Dean Mark A. Kretovics. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested, and the item passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Inactivation of all departments within the College of Public Health. The inactivated departments are Social and Behavioral Sciences [SBS]; Health Policy and Management [HPM]; and Biostatistics, Environmental Health and Epidemiology [BEHE].

Dean James L. Blank moved for approval of the item, and the motion was seconded by Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington. Dean Sonia A. Alemagno discussed the reasoning behind the inactivation of the departments, stating that it was driven by new accreditation guidelines as well as not being compliant with an internal policy for having the necessary amount of tenured faculty. The decision was made to take the existing three department structure and put them together to create one administrative unit.

An EPC member asked if it was known, the level of faculty who voted against the item. Dean Alemagno replied that the voting was done by secret ballot so that information was not known.

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

Graduate EPC Action Item 1: Revision of the Enrollment-Graduate policy and the Candidacy for Doctoral Degree policy to include a statement regarding expectations for course enrollment when students are using university facilities and resources.

Associate Dean I. Richmond Nettey motion for approval of the item was seconded by Associate Dean William T. Willoughby. Dean Tankersley stated that the policy revision is to clarify the process for students to be continuously enrolled and the expectations for graduate students as they finish their course work. Most colleges and departments currently do this and have some language built in, but the policy does not clearly state the expectation that when a student is involved in academic work, they should be registered at the university. The policy revision will recognize the work students are doing, as well as the work the faculty are doing with students during this time.

An EPC member asked what problem is being solved with this policy and how does it benefit the students. Dean Tankersley responded that the problem that is being solved is about benefits to the students. Students are in need of resources, and when they are not currently registered as a student, they do not have access to those resources. Registration will allow the university to account for students and where they are, which is currently a problem as there is no account for students who are actively engaged.

The EPC member stated that within the member's college, approximately 60 percent of students take a semester off between finishing their coursework and taking the comprehensive exams. These students use that time to study at work and typically do not use any university resources with the exception of the library. Provost Diacon asked if during this time, students consult or work with faculty. From the member's experience, "not really." Dean Tankersley responded that her experience has been very different. She also stated that students are not registering for when they are taking their comprehensive exams, which gives them no protection as a student if something would go wrong during that process. She emphasized that most colleges and departments do have a policy that states students need to be continuously enrolled in the university.

In reference to the supporting documentation, Provost Diacon stated that in looking at the policies from peer and aspirant universities, all other universities require continuous enrollment with the exception of one, which charges a fee. An EPC member responded in regards to the definition of continuous enrollment, which is being enrolled in one out of three consecutive semesters, which is the current policy. Dean Tankersley stated that this is the current policy for the university. There are examples of students taking comprehensive exams without being enrolled. Provost Diacon stated that he does not know how this would be allowed to happen because during comprehensive exams there is a lot of work put on the professor during that time. He had concerns about the legal implications, that if a student is not enrolled at the time of taking these exams that they could be deemed not valid because the student was not technically a student.

Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith agreed with the statement that a student should be enrolled when he or she is taking exams, but also agreed with the EPC member that a student does not need to be enrolled while preparing for exams. Dean Tankersley replied that under the current policy, a student can take a semester off to prepare and then would enroll when taking exams.

An EPC member asked for clarification of what would be considered “university resources” in the proposed statement to be added to the policy. The statement in question is:

Students must enroll each semester in which they are engaged in any form of study that involves the use of university facilities or resources, including human resources.

The member questioned if the use of the library, which is a public space, would be considered a university resource. Dean Tankersley responded that it would determine on what students want to use in the library. For example, if they want to borrow a laptop, they would not be able to unless they were a registered student, but they could still use the library as a place of study and to meet with people.

Chair Smith added that she had a concern about the “human resources” portion of the statement. She has students who contact her during the summer for direction on various things but they are not registered during the summer. According to the proposed statement, they would not be allowed to contact her. To clarify, Provost Diacon stated that the current continuous enrollment policy states that a student must be enrolled in one out of three consecutive terms, and that the proposed addition seems to be causing trouble that states “students must enroll in each semester in which they are engaged in any form of study.” Chair Smith stated that the wording of “including human resources” is problematic. She understands that a student cannot use a lab or other university resource but should be able to speak with a faculty member. Dean Tankersley asked if she was proposing to strike “including human resources” from the statement, and Chair Smith agreed with that.

Dean Alemagno moved to amend the first proposed statement by removing the wording “including human resources.” The motion was seconded by Assistant Professor Marry A. Mooney. Members did not have any additional questions or comments about this motion, and the item passed unanimously.

An EPC member suggested adding a sentence prior to the amended sentence to clarify that the continuous enrollment would be while a student is working on dissertation, thesis, comprehensive exams, etc. Dean Tankersley responded that the policy goes beyond students who are enrolled in comprehensive exams or dissertations. The policy is for all students, and the language is broad intentionally.

Chair Smith posed a question regarding the calculation of consecutive terms in the current policy and suggested since the policy is being revised, that the entire policy be reviewed at this time. Provost Diacon responded that could be revisited at another time and the process now is to focus on the two proposed sentence changes. He clarified that the first item being proposed is designed so that a student who is using university resources (library, lab, meeting with an advisor, etc.), should be enrolled.

An EPC member inquired if a student must be enrolled if the student calls the faculty member for a weekly meeting. Chair Smith replied that since “human resources” was being struck from the proposed item, the student would not need to be enrolled. Provost Diacon replied that, technically, under the amendment, the student would not have to be enrolled, but he disagreed with that. He stated that the university should be tracking who is being taught and directing students is teaching. If students do not register, the university loses the ability to track that.

An EPC member asked what would these students enroll in. A minimum of one credit hour is needed in order to be enrolled, which would be an equivalent of 15 contact hours [NOTE: 12.5 hours total for a 15-week semester.], but if a student does not have 15 contact hours during the semester, how can his be justified? An EPC member suggested the possibility of a flat fee for a student to pay so the student could be tracked but the issue of contact hours would not be in question.

Chair Smith mentioned the option of sending the proposal back to committee. Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell moved to send the policy revision back to committee, and Professor Robin L. Selinger seconded the motion. Dean Tankersley asked for clarification on what was being sent back to committee. Chair Smith said that the policy as a whole was being sent back with concerns about the first sentence of the policy and the implication for students on whether they would have to pay full tuition or have an option for a continuous registration fee. She requested that the committee come back with a revised policy to reflect these concerns. Provost Diacon stated even if the proposal is sent back to committee, he feels it is his duty to consult with university legal council to discuss if the university can legally be giving comprehensive exams, grading them and recording them as an official act of the university for students who are not enrolled in the university. He would like a legal opinion on it now that he is aware of it.

Members had no further questions or discussion and passed the item unanimously to move the proposal back to the Graduate Studies Administrative Advisory Committee (GSAAC).

With no requests for additional discussion, Provost Diacon adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer L. Rogers

Administrative Secretary, Curriculum Services

Office of the Provost