



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 19 March 2018

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Provost Todd A. Diacon; Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith; Deans Barbara A. Broome, John R. Crawford-Spinelli, James C. Hannon, Eboni J. Pringle; Associate Deans Mary Ann Haley (representing Dean James L. Blank), Robert D. Hisrich, I. Richmond Nettey (representing Dean Robert G. Sines Jr., Cynthia R. Stillings, Wendy A. Umberger, Manfred H. Van Dulmen, William T. Willoughby; Assistant Dean Matthew M. Rollyson (representing Dean Amy Reynolds); Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Assistant Dean Elizabeth A. Sinclair (representing Dean Deborah F. Spake); Associate Professor Thomas W. Brewer (Representing Dean Sonia A. Alemagno

Ex-officio Members not present (or not represented): Deans Mark S. Mistur, Alison J. Smith, Melody J. Tankersley; Interim Deans Kenneth J. Burhanna, Nathan Ritchey; Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell; Interim Associate Deans Danielle S. Coombs, Kara L. Robinson

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Edward Dauterich, Christopher J. Fenk, Darci L. Kracht, Susan Roxburgh, Donald L. White; Associate Professors Vanessa J. Earp, Albert L. Ingram; Assistant Professor Jennifer M. Cunningham

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or not represented): Professor Robert J. Twieg; Associate Professors Linda L. Williams; Assistant Professor Vinay K. Cheruvu

Council Representatives present (or represented): Professors Michael C. Chunn, Said Shiyab, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Jillian S. Coorey, Jan C. Leach, Richard L. Mangrum, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte, Robert D. Sturr, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Pamela K. Evans (representing Assistant Professor Jonathan P. Fleming), James D. (Derek) Kingsley, Mary A. Mooney, Amy B. Petrinec

Council Representatives not present (or not represented): Professor Shin-Min (Simon) Song; Associate Professors Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy; Assistant Professors Insook Kim, Debra S. Shelestak

Observers present: Graduate Student Senate Vice Executive Chair Kathryn Klonowski,

Observers not present: Undergraduate Student Government Senator Samantha Scozzaro

Consultants and Guests present: Susan M. Augustine, Aimee J. Bell, George F. Bigham; Alicia R. Crowe, Larry G. Froehlich, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Jennifer M. Kulics, Rocco Petrozzi, Gail M. Rebeta, Hollie Simpson, Linnea A. Stafford, Therese E. Tillet, Lana K. Whitehead, Catherine M. Zingrone

Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., on Monday, 19 March 2018, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of 19 March 2018 meeting minutes.

Professor Edward Dauterich moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Assistant Professor Mary A. Mooney. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Revision of the University Academic Calendar.

A motion for approval of the item was made by Associate Dean Wendy A. Umberger and seconded by Professor Darci L. Kracht.

Provost Todd A. Diacon presented the proposal, which will shorten the instructional length of the spring semester, thereby aligning the instructional days of the fall and spring semesters without changing the summer term. Provost Diacon gave a short history of the creation of a fall break, explaining that the idea of a fall break originally came from President Warren about two years ago.

The president had approached the provost and Senior Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley about implementing a two-day fall break, which she had implemented at her previous university. She felt that an early break helped the wellbeing of students during the long fall semester. The provost explained that he also was supportive of creating a two-day fall break because he had lead a similar initiative at the University of Tennessee. Since coming to Kent State University, he has polled students every year, and one of the common comments from them is the need for a fall break.

The provost also shared his experience with a fall break, stating that it not only benefited student, but also faculty. The fall break fell during a time when faculty workload was extremely high (e.g., midterms needed to be graded, book orders needed to be submitted, conference papers needed to be finished), and the faculty at his last university embraced the break.

The original proposal that was sent to EPC was to shorten the fall semester by two days to allow for a Thursday to Friday break. The advantage of the original proposal was that it did not change the current calendar structure for any of the terms or between-terms time; the disadvantage was two days were shifted away from instruction. After Faculty Senate tabled the original proposal, the provost asked Senior Associate Provost Tankersley to come up with a solution so the fall instructional time would not be shortened. Subsequent to that, and facing calendar and Board of Trustees deadlines to implement a fall break for fall 2018, the president and provost moved to implement a fall break without going back to Faculty Senate. The provost explained that, as a previous member of faculty senate at his other universities, he understood the frustration felt by senators with the decision made by the administration.

Moving to today's proposal, Provost Diacon stated that starting the fall term two days earlier to accommodate the two days lost during the fall break creates a problem for the back offices. The days between each term are very busy for those offices, and staff will not be able to get the work done without preserving all the days. The proposal today is to make the fall and spring semester the same length, by shortening spring and not altering summer. After polling different faculty committees, the result came back that shortening the spring term instead of shortening summer was the preferred option.

An EPC member commented that at first she was in favor of removing summer intersession but after discussions with other units, she understood that shortening spring would be the best option for everyone.

EPC members spoke in favor of shortening the spring semester without changing summer. Members expressed concerns that if summer intersession was removed, it would greatly affect some of the programs offered at Kent State University.

Executive Director Therese E. Tillett clarified if the committee approved a shorter spring term, the effective date would be spring 2020. The reason for the later effective date is that many areas around the university have already set their calendar for the next academic year 2018-2019 (fall 2018, spring 2019, summer 2019). For example, the Office of Financial Aid has already determined student's financial aid for the next year based on the current calendar dates. If those dates were changed, all determinations would have to be recalculated.

An EPC member asked how the change of the start and end dates will affect the drop/add deadlines. The University Registrar explained that the dates will have to be adjusted so that the week ends on a Wednesday.

With no further questions or comments, EPC members passed the item unanimously.

There were no other action items and no requests for additional discussion. Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of Curriculum Services