



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

**Ex-Officio Members present (or represented):** Deans Barbara A. Broome, John R. Crawford-Spinelli, James C. Hannon, Mark S. Mistur, Eboni J. Pringle, Alison J. Smith, Melody J. Tankersley (representing Provost Todd A. Diacon); Interim Deans Kenneth J. Burhanna, Nathan Ritchey; Associate Deans Mary Ann Haley (representing Dean James L. Blank), Robert D. Hisrich, Stephen A. Mitchell, I. Richmond Nettey, Cynthia R. Stillings, Wendy A. Umberger, Manfred H. Van Dulmen; Interim Associate Deans Danielle S. Coombs, Kara L. Robinson; Assistant Dean Matthew M. Rollyson (representing Dean Amy Reynolds)

**Ex-officio Members not present (or not represented):** Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, Deborah F. Spake; Interim Dean Robert G. Sines, Jr.; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Dean William T. Willoughby

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

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

**Council Representatives present (or represented):** Associate Dean Mary Ann Haley (representing Associate Professor Robert D. Sturr) Professor Michael C. Chunn; Associate Professors Jillian S. Coorey, Jan C. Leach, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte; Assistant Professors Pamela K. Evans, Insook Kim, Mary A. Mooney, Amy B. Petrinc; Assistant Professor Jonathan P. Fleming

**Council Representatives not present (or not represented):** Professor Said Shiyab, Shin-Min (Simon) Song, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Richard L. Mangrum, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, James D. (Derek) Kinglsey, 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:** Patrick G. Coy, Larry G. Froehlich, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Kathleen J. Spicer, Linnea A. Stafford, Aimee J. VanDomelen, Catherine M. Zingrone

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Senior Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., on Monday, 19 February 2018, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

**Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of 22 January 2017 meeting minutes.**

Professor Edward Dauterich moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Associate Dean I. Richmond Nettey. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion passed unanimously.

**Joint EPC Action Item 2: Formation of an EPC task force to undertake a review of responsibility, authority and structure of the Educational Policies Council.**

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley described how the EPC has grown over the past couple of years into a large group. Because of its current size, there are some concerns that the council is not facilitating enough discussion, even though the council is charged with reviewing the curriculum and making recommendations for the proposals to move forward to the next level. The purpose of this proposal is to establish a review committee to look at EPC's structure, membership, size, attendance and scheduling.

A motion for approval of the item was made by Associate Dean Wendy A. Umberger and seconded by Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell.

EPC members did not have any questions or comments and passed the item unanimously.

**Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Establishment of a Global Distinction Program to be administered by the University College.**

Professor Darci L. Kracht made a motion for approval, seconded by Professor Dauterich.

Interim Dean Kenneth J. Burhanna explained that the proposed Global Distinction Program provides an opportunity for all undergraduate students to advance their degree through the study and practice of global and intercultural learning. The program will allow students to take some coursework, do some immersive experiences, and then have a required culminating presentation that will earn them an additional credential on their transcript.

The program will consist of 12 credit hours of coursework that may be selected from the list of existing global diversity courses and/or foreign language courses at the intermediate to mid-proficiency level completed with a minimum B grade. After comparing the learning outcomes of the new program and the learning outcomes of the global diversity university requirement, the group noticed a lot of overlap, which made sense for the program to use the existing list of approved courses. For the immersive experience, the students will be asked to complete one of the following options: (1) one substantial or long-term immersive experience or (2) two short-term immersive experiences. The culminating requirement will be a student presentation, either online or in person, where the students reflect on their coursework and their experience and tell their story on how the program has affected their educational experience.

There was considerable discussion, with EPC members questioning the program not being designated a minor; costs in hiring a full-time coordinator; limiting the course requirements to only global diversity-designated courses; and students' opportunity to fulfill the immersive requirement.

Interim Dean Burhanna stated that when the Global Distinction program was first discussed, establishing it as a minor was put forth. However, minors at Kent State are housed in an academic college, which will not be the case with this program. In response to program start-up costs, Dean Pringle explained that the reason to hire a program coordinator early is so that the person can launch the program from the ground up.

For the question about course requirements, Interim Dean Burhanna replied that the choice to align the global distinction course requirements with the global diversity-designated courses was to lessen the confusion that students may encounter when selecting courses. Academic departments can request new global diversity courses by submitting a proposal to the University Requirements Curriculum Committee for approval.

Regarding the immersive requirement, Dean Eboni J. Pringle explained that just because the proposal did not specify a specific immersion experience, it does not mean that the committee will not accept the experience.

EPC members passed the item.

**Undergraduate EPC Action Item 2: Revision of name for the Applied Conflict Management [ACM] major within the Bachelor of Arts [BA] degree. Revised name is Peace and Conflict Studies [PACS].**

Professor Linda L. Williams made a motion to approve the item, with Assistant Professors Pamela K. Evans seconding.

Associate Dean Mary Ann Haley explained that, last year, the Center of Applied Conflict Management was restructured and renamed the School of Peace and Conflict Studies. Renaming of the major and the minor is part of the next steps for programs housed in the school.

EPC members passed the item unanimously with no questions or comments.

**Undergraduate EPC Action Item 3: Revision of admission criteria for the Cooperative Education Program. Revision includes decreasing GPA, from 2.750 to 2.250; eliminating requirement that students must be in a degree program (although they must be degree seeking); and revising minimum enrollment status prior to first co-op experience, from full time to part time (6 credit hours or more).**

Professor Dauterich moved the item for approval, which was seconded by Dean James C. Hannon.

Dean Pringle explained that decreasing the GPA for admission will allow more students at Kent State to undertake a co-op experience. An EPC member inquired if the intention of lowering the GPA was to give more students the opportunity to participate, why not lower the GPA to the minimum 2.000 to graduate from Kent State University. The member opined that 2.250 seemed an arbitrary number.

Dean Pringle related that the original intention with the revision was to lower the GPA to 2.000. After consulting with academic advisors and the Provost Office, it was decided to raise the GPA a bit higher to a 2.250. Senior Associate Provost Tankersley added that the concern with lowering the GPA to the absolute minimum to graduate was that students who are on the cusp of not graduating may be affected if they were to leave Kent State for a period of time for a co-op before returning to finish their degree.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley followed up to ask the EPC member if the member would like to make a friendly amendment to lower the GPA to a 2.000 before a vote was taken on the item. The member declined, stating that since the item needed to go to Faculty Senate, a discussion could happen there. Senior Associate Provost Tankersley stated that the proposal was now in front of EPC for review and approval. If EPC members felt that a proposal could be strengthened, it is the responsibility of EPC members to do so before the proposal goes to Faculty Senate.

Another EPC member asked for the reason behind the 2.750 GPA. Dean Pringle replied that she was not quite sure, but believed the program developers reviewed other university's co-op policies for common practices. She stated that the success rate for the program is extremely high; the program has not had any issues with students not completing the program.

Professor Dauterich proposed a friendly amendment to reduce the GPA for admission to a 2.000, which was seconded by Professor Williams.

The EPC members passed the friendly amendment unanimously to lower the GPA to a 2.000.

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

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There were no requests for additional discussion, and Senior Associate Provost Tankersley adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of Curriculum Services