



**Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 16 April 2018**

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith, Associate Provost Mandy J. Munro-Stasiuk (representing Dean Melody J. Tankersley); Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, James L. Blank, Barbara A. Broome, John R. Crawford-Spinelli, James C. Hannon, Eboni J. Pringle, Alison J. Smith; Interim Deans Kenneth J. Burhanna, Nathan Ritchey, Robert G. Sines Jr.; Assistant Dean Elizabeth A. Sinclair (representing both Dean Deborah F. Spake and Associate Dean Robert D. Hisrich,); Interim Assistant Dean Kara L. Robinson; Associate Deans Vincent J. Hetherington, Stephen A. Mitchell, Cynthia R. Stillings, Wendy A. Umberger, Manfred H. Van Dulmen; Interim Associate Dean Danielle S. Coombs (representing Dean Amy L. Reynolds); Associate Professor Pamela K. Evans (representing both Dean Mark S. Mistur and Associate Dean William T. Willoughby)

Ex-Officio Members not present (or not represented): Provost Todd A. Diacon; Associate Dean I. Richmond Nettey

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Darci L. Kracht, Donald L. White; Associate Professors Albert L. Ingram, Linda L. Williams

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Edward Dauterich, Susan Roxburgh, Robert J. Twieg; Assistant Professors Vinay K. Cheruvu, Jennifer M. Cunningham; Associate Professors Vanessa J. Earp, Christopher J. Fenk

Council Representatives present (or represented): Assistant Dean Elizabeth A. Sinclair (representing Lindsay C. Baran); Associate Professor Pamela K. Evans (representing Jonathan P. Fleming); Professors Michael W. Chunn, Shin-Min (Simon) Song; Assistant Professors James D. (Derek) Kingsley, Insook Kim, Mary A. Mooney, Amy B. Petrinec, Debra S. Shelestak; Associate Professors Jillian S. Coorey, Pamela K. Evans, Richard L. Mangrum, Jonathan F. Swoboda

Council Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Said Shiyab, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Jan C. Leach, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte, Jayaram (Jay) Muthuswamy, Robert D. Sturr, Melissa D. Zullo

Observers present: Representative for Graduate Student Senate Vice Executive Chair Kathryn Klonowski

Observers not present: Undergraduate Student Government Senator Samantha Scozzaro

Consultants and Guests present: Aimee J. Bell, Keiran Dunne, Larry G. Froehlich, Lynette Johnson, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Karen M. Keenan, Françoise Massardier-Kenney, Christa Ord, Hollie Simpson, Therese E. Tillett, Kathryn Wilson, Catherine M. Zingrone

Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m., on Monday, 16 April 2018, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent Student Center.

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

Assistant Professor Mary A. Mooney moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Associate Professor Pamela K. Evans. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Revision of the policy for the Incomplete (IN) administrative mark to update language regarding an IN mark submission and to clarify some requirements and timing of the default grade process.

A motion for approval of the item was made by Associate Dean Danielle S. Coombs and seconded by Professor Darci L. Kracht.

Executive Director Therese E. Tillett explained that the proposal is not to change the policy, but to update language due to implementation of an electronic workflow for the incomplete mark contract. In addition, there are minor changes in the policy, including removing an implication that the deadline for the default grade is whatever the instructor puts in the contract. If the student does not complete the work for the course, the default grade is applied at the end of the semester with all other grade entries. In addition, the current policy did not note extensions, although that has always been a policy in practice.

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

Joint EPC Action Item 3: Revision of the policy for the Audit (AU), Never Attended-F (NF) and Stopped Attending-F (SF) administrative marks to clarify that students still are enrolled in a course receiving one of those marks even if their overall enrollment status has changed for financial aid and other purposes.

Sonia A. Alemagno moved the item for approval, seconded by Assistant Professor Mooney.

Executive Director Therese E. Tillett explained that after a student has been given an NF or SF mark, the student continues to be enrolled in the course. The policy was changed a couple years ago to reflect overall student enrollment status due to reporting regulations for federal financial aid. Students who receive a NF or SF mark, according to the U.S. Department of Education, are not attending the course, and their financial aid should be adjusted to reflect that. Unintended consequences occurred with this policy change. For example, it affected student athlete eligibility to play, because the student's enrollment status would be reported as less than full time. This change to the policy is to clarify that the student is still enrolled in the course, even if the student receives one of these marks and is designated as less than full time in the system (Banner).

An EPC member asked if the line in the policy about "select purposes" was intentionally vague. Associate Registrar Lynette Johnson replied in the affirmative, saying they do not know every place the policy may have some impact. This part of the policy was left so that the policy did not override another rule or regulation. Adjusting the language allows for student athletes to continue to compete and/or practice, but the policy language modification does not change the main purpose.

The EPC member followed up, inquiring where this information could be found so as to advise students. Associate Registrar Johnson replied that she did not have an answer for this question.

An EPC member asked for clarification on the eligibility status of the student athletes who concentrate on the sport and do not attend class. Associate Registrar Johnson explained that the NCAA performs many checks. The student athlete may be eligible to compete in the sport, however, at the end of the semester, checks are performed to ensure they have met 18 credits hours and are progressing in their degree. A student athlete cannot receive all NF/SF marks and be eligible to compete the next semester. This circumstance would be the same as if they failed the courses.

Professor Kathryn Wilson, Kent State's NCAA faculty athletics representative, stated that the NCAA has a large amount of requirements. The NCAA performs the checks before the semester begins to ensure that student athletes are full time before they can be eligible to participate. Student athletes who drop a course lose their eligibility. Professor Wilson explained that someone checks on student course status every morning. There are safeguards in place so athletic counselors are notified if a student athlete drops a class.

She explained that the issue with the current policy for NF/SF marks is that it was completely out of everyone's control except the course instructor. The student athlete instantly becomes ineligible to compete when the instructor enters a NF/SF mark. She gave an example of an instructor who accidentally gave NF marks to all students in a course late one afternoon, which prevented a student athlete from playing in a game that night. This policy modification allows for the uncertainty around eligibility to be removed. This gives athletics the flexibility to have the policy work as Kent State had intended.

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

Joint EPC Action Item 4: Revision of registration deadlines affected by changes to the academic calendar.

Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington moved for approval of the item, and Associate Dean Wendy A. Umberger seconded.

Executive Director Tillett stated that the registration deadlines are not changing. The language needs to be stated a different way to now align with the new start of the fall semester.

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

Faculty Senate Chair Smith asked if any EPC Graduate Council member would like to discuss any item on the graduate agenda, or move any lesser item to an action item. Hearing no response, Faculty Senate Chair Smith said they were free to leave if they wanted.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Designation of Kent Core status in the Additional category to MCLS 20000 Global Literacy and Cultural Awareness (3). Course number will be revised to MCLS 20001. This item was presented and then tabled at the January 2015 EPC meeting.

Interim Dean Kenneth J. Burhanna made a motion to approve the item, and Professor Kracht seconded the motion.

URCC Co-Chair and Dean Alison J. Smith explained that this course was approved originally by the URCC in December 2014. It went to EPC and was tabled until the course received approval for inclusion in the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM). Dean Alison J. Smith turned over the discussion to Dean James L. Blank.

Dean Blank explained that the course is highly disciplinary, and his college has requested that it be approved for the Kent Core Additional category. He stated that it is not unusual for a course to be denied for OTM status, adding that there are quite a few Kent Core courses not in the OTM. The last four years have been focused on global initiatives at Kent State, especially in the classroom, and this course will serve a broad range of students in a variety of disciplines. Dean Blank requested that Professor Françoise Massardier-Kenney provide more details and answer questions.

Professor Massardier-Kenney said she and a colleague developed the course in 2012 because it was obvious that courses like this were needed in the United States. The idea of intercultural competence was labeled as a national security crisis as early as 2012. This course was developed to assist with training everyone to be more thoughtful of other cultures, to understand how people from other cultures view us, and to have a framework allowing people to function in a global world. There has been a large number of refugees to the United States, especially through Akron and Cleveland refugee agencies, in the past 10 years. Professor Massardier-Kenney expressed that host communities need to understand refugees' experience, and the refugees need to understand what it will take to be successful in America.

Professor Massardier-Kenney explained that the course works at a fairly simple level. The concepts introduced to students are basic, such as different conceptions of time. She noted that a similar course is in the Kent Core currently (Colloquium: The Western Identity). However, it is an honors course, open to honors students only. It has the same content as her course, but at a higher level. She expressed concern that honors students have access to cultural competency in the Kent Core, but general students do not.

An EPC member recalled that the College of Public Health requested that a global public health course be considered for Kent Core a couple of years ago. URCC passed it, but there was the same caveat of gaining OTM approval, which did not happen for the public health course, similar to the course on the floor currently. The member requested clarification that if this course is approved for Kent Core without being approved for OTM, the College of Public Health can resubmit its course.

Faculty Senate Chair Smith replied that it is her understanding that Faculty Senate has not been approving Kent Core courses without the OTM status, and that Senate has not been approving adding a course to the Kent Core without the removal of a course.

An EPC member acknowledged that she was the one who made the motion to table the initial proposal in 2015, to which Professor Massardier-Kenney responded "Shame on you!" The member indicated that the Senate hears a lot of complaints from Columbus, because there are too many courses not in OTM. It is the practice of Faculty Senate to not consider any courses that have not been approved for OTM. Faculty did not receive anything saying that the course had been approved for the OTM, and that is why the course was dismissed from consideration. The member suggested to the college to either not submit the course to Faculty Senate without OTM approval or remove another MCLS course from the Kent Core to replace it with this course.

There was further discussion on the OTM, with the clarification that there is no state mandate that all courses in a university's general education requirement must be approved in the OTM. Several members expressed their opinion that having OTM status is not critical to being in the Kent Core; while others said there are too many courses in the Kent Core without OTM status. (Editor's note: Of the 126 courses in the Kent Core for fall 2018, 35 or 28% do not have OTM status.)

The OTM is a state-wide initiative to ensure that students may transfer easily their general education requirements from one public institution to another within the state. Recently, the state has started an overarching review of the OTM, as it has not changed that much in the past 25 years.

There was also member discussion on the practice that Faculty Senate has followed in the recent years of keeping the number of Kent Core courses at a certain limit. Faculty Senate Chair Smith noted that both past and present presidents have expressed concern about the high number of courses in the Kent Core. Senate has worked to be responsive to that concern. The belief by many is a university's core curriculum should be a narrow, shared experience, and that cannot be accomplished with a large amount of courses. Under the RCM model, courses proliferated in the Kent Core, because they were lucrative to their respective colleges. The issue is that the Kent Core has become so broad that some feel it is no longer achieving its original goal.

Other discussion followed on the availability of the course for students. Professor Massardier-Kenney stated that students are able to take the course currently, but she felt they do not have the time to take it because they have so many requirements. A member pointed out that the course currently fulfills part of the foreign language requirement for students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Another member inquired why the course has not been submitted to satisfy the global diversity requirement for students.

Members who spoke in favor of approving the course noted the need for intercultural competency in the Kent Core and the need to update the Kent Core to reflect current issues. One member felt there was no issue with having many courses in the Kent Core as everyone looks at the requirement differently.

Professor Massardier-Kenney also provided clarification to several member questions about the instructional delivery of the course. She stated the course is offered both online and face-to-face. Many international students take the course, and she stated it is ideal to have them interact with American students in a face-to-face course.

EPC members did not have any additional questions or comments. They passed the item with one dissenting vote.

With no further items, comments or questions, Faculty Senate Chair Deborah C. Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of Curriculum Services