



**Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 20 April 2020**

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Interim Provost Melody J. Tankersley; Co-Chair Pamela E. Grimm; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, James L. Blank, Christina L. Bloebaum, Barbara A. Broome, Kenneth J. Burhanna (represented by Kara L. Robinson), John R. Crawford-Spinelli, James C. Hannon, Mark S. Mistur, Eboni J. Pringle, Amy L. Reynolds, Alison J. Smith, Deborah F. Spake, Cynthia R. Stillings, Susan J. Stocker (Interim); Associate Deans Cathy L. Dubois, Jocelyn S. Harrison, Miriam L. Matteson, Babacar M'Baye, Stephen A. Mitchell, Kara L. Robinson, William T. Willoughby;

Ex-officio Members not present (or not represented): Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans Maureen McFarland, Wendy A. Umberger

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Edward Dauterich, Darci L. Kracht, Richard L. Mangrum, Donald L. White; Associate Professors Ann Abraham, Jeffrey Ciesla, Jennifer M. Cunningham, Helen Piontkivska

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or not represented): Professor Robert J. Twieg

Council Representatives present (or represented): Dean Amy L. Reynolds; Professors Michael W. Chunn, Christine A. Hudak; Associate Professors Ivan Bernal, Thomas W. Brewer, Matthew J. Crawford, Duane J. Ehredt, Ann Heiss, Derek J. Kingsley, Dandan Liu, Richard L. Mangrum, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte, David B. Robins, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Brian R. Barber, Sara Bayramzadeh, Yvonne M. Smith

Council Representatives not present (or not represented): Associate Professor Lawrence L. Marks

Observers not present: Morgan Stilgenbauer, Drake Wartman

Consultants and Guests present: Susan M. Augustine, Aimee J. Bell, Larry G. Froehlich, Mary Ann Haley, Shannon Helfstine, Lynette Johnson, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Christa N. Ord, Johanna Pionke, Gail M. Rebeta, Matthew Rollyson, Hollie B. Simpson, Elizabeth A. Sinclair, Linnea C. Stafford, Therese E. Tillett, Cathy M. Zingrone

Interim Provost Melody J. Tankersley called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 20 April 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Minutes of meeting on 27 January 2020.

Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell motioned to approve the item, and Interim Dean Susan J. Stocker seconded the motion.

With no questions or comments, the item passed with one member abstaining.

Joint EPC Action Item 2: Revision of the policies on dual degrees double majors.

Dean Sonia A. Alemagno made a motion to approve the item, and Professor Edward Dauterich seconded.

Interim Provost Melody J. Tankersley explained that the proposal is to revise the policies that oversee students declaring double majors and dual degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level. Due to confusion between the differing rules between the two, the proposal requests to redefine double major as being two majors within the same degree meaning. As long as the degrees are the same, a student can have majors in different colleges. The committee recommends eliminating the 140-credit-hour minimum for dual degrees as the members believe it is a holdover. The driving force should be that the student meets the major requirements for both degrees regarding credit hours. Additionally, the committee recommends eliminating the 15-credit-hours required for dual associate degrees. For the graduate dual degree, the committee proposes to allow students to declare masters and doctoral degree programs in different disciplines.

Without questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 3: Revision of the policy on combined bachelor's/master's degree programs.

Dean Cindy R. Stillings motioned to approve the item, and Professor Richard L. Mangrum seconded the motion.

Dean Cindy R. Stillings stated that the proposal is keeping with the state's new regulation with online bachelors and master's degrees. The policy is being updated to meet the new state guidelines. UG may apply to a master's program after they have completed at least 60 hours. They have to meet all requirements of the master's degrees and be admitted. Depending on the number of hours of the master's degree, they can double count nine or twelve, but the total must be 141. They're charged undergrad tuition rates for the graduate courses while they are an undergrad student. Programs need to apply to the state in order to apply for combined master's program under certain circumstances which will be in the new curricular guidelines. All of that will be in the policy. The changes include replacing the GPA per credit hours with the minimum 3.0 overall leaving the decision on whether the student is eligible for graduate study to the individual programs. The requirement that a letter grade must be earned in courses that will be double counted has been removed, because there are a number of professional degree programs where an SU is awarded. The categories of informal and formal have been removed. They are specifically combined degree programs now.

With no questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item 4: Revision of school name, from School of Journalism and Mass Communication to School of Media and Journalism.

Associate Professor David B. Robins made a motion to approve, and Associate Professor Jeffrey Ciesla seconded.

Dean Amy L. Reynolds explained that the School of Journalism and Mass Communication saw the earlier name change of Digital Sciences to Emerging Media and Technology and liked the idea of adding media to the school's name. They wanted to do this because most people tend to affiliate the term media to all of the programs, broadly, within the school. The faculty in Journalism and Mass Communication in consultation across the college with all of the programs decided Media and Journalism is a better contemporary reflection of their programs. Mass Communication is still more an academic term and not used professionally. Additionally, it helps to align the marketing and recruiting efforts to roll out both school name changes at the same time.

An EPC member asked for clarification on the decision to choose that name despite there not being that many schools with that name.

Dean Reynolds replied, that data of school names was highly variable. The faculty felt it was important to include both media and journalism, because media is so broad and they did not want to lose the news and journalism part. Data was collected by an outside company and a focus group was conducted with Kent State students and high school students. There was not a meaningful difference in keeping or not keeping journalism with it versus being a school of media alone. Faculty still felt it was important to keep journalism.

Without further questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item 1: Revision of the policy on thesis for master's degree.

Professor Edward Dauterich motioned to approve the item, and Associate Dean William T. Willoughby seconded the motion.

Dean Cindy R. Stillings stated that the graduate deans updated the policy to include up-to-date information as well as removing the graduate faculty status levels f1, f2, f3. The requirement to register for thesis in the summer term has been removed. A statement was added that the hours earned in Thesis II do not count towards the degree. It was always the case, but it is now added to the policy. The deadline for thesis completion would be determined by each college, because of the nature of the different thesis, thesis projects and capstones. The decision to determine when the deadlines would be for thesis are left up to the college.

Without questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item 2: Revision of the policy on dissertation for doctoral degree.

Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell made a motion to approve the item, and Associate Professor Jeffrey Ciesla seconded.

Dean Cindy R. Stillings explained that the dissertation policy was updated to remove the levels of graduate faculty status. It was clarified that a dissertation is required for the Ph.D. rather than all doctoral degrees, because there are different practical experiences. The requirement for students to register for dissertation in the summer was eliminated. A maximum of 30-credit-hours of dissertation is counted towards the degree. This was always the case, but is now stated in the policy. The deadline for dissertations are as they have always been the third Monday following the final date for oral examination. This is now stated in the policy.

Without questions or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item 3: Establishment of a policy on remote participation in a thesis or dissertation defense.

Professor Edward Dauterich motioned to approve the item, and Associate Professor Jeffrey Ciesla seconded the motion.

Dean Cindy R. Stillings shared that this is a new policy for remote thesis or dissertation. The students enrolled in fully online degree programs are not required to be physically present for their dissertation defense. With the permission of the dissertation chair, students or committee members can participate remotely in the dissertation defense under the following conditions that a web conferencing software is to be used. There have been so many successful web defenses already this semester being used through a number of different software that it remains open and available to the university. The chair of the dissertation committee is responsible for ensuring the tech elements are there and that everybody can see and hear.

Without questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item 4: Revision of name of the Evaluation and Measurement [EVAL] major within the Master of Education [MED] and Doctor of Philosophy [PHD] degrees. Revised name is Research, Measurement and Statistics [RMS].

Associate Professor Derek J. Kingsley made a motion to approve the item, and Professor Christine A. Hudak seconded.

Dean Stephen A. Mitchell explained that the proposal is for a change in program title for the master's and doctoral degrees. The degrees are currently titled "Evaluation and Measurements." The proposed title is "Research, Measurement and Statistics" for both degrees. Faculty in the programs felt that the nature of the coursework and the fields for which they prepare students reflect the other title better. They compared their own program titles with that of other institutions that supports this name change.

With no questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Establishment of a Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology [SEPP] minor to be offered fully online and hybrid on the Kent Campus.

Dean Amy L. Reynolds motioned to approve the item, and Assistant Professor Brian R. Barber seconded the motion.

Dean James C. Hannon stated that the proposal is for a minor in Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology online. This minor addresses a need from a growing area of interest in the field revolving around sport, exercise and performance psychology. It will provide students with base knowledge of psychological theory and skill development important in the area of improving performance in both sport, exercise and artistic performance areas. The minor will touch on a variety of concepts including motivation, self-confidence, concentration, anxiety, burnout and how these concepts are directly applied within both sporting, exercise and artistic environments to improve performance. This minor would be attractive to large number of students within many

established majors on the campus, such as exercise science, sports administration, athletic training and psychology. As well as, potentially, students in a variety of artistic fields.

An EPC member asked about the feasibility of hiring adjunct faculty with the current situation and whether that affects the proposal.

Dean Hannon replied no and that this was planned to be offered and the particular adjunct faculty member was also working within the program/course development this past year.

With confusion on the placement of commas in the title, an EPC member asked if psychology applies to all three or just performance.

Dean Hannon explained that the specific name is recommended by the accrediting association.

Melody added that the program requirements suggest psychology applies to all three—sport, exercise and performance

Without any other questions, comments or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 2: Revision of the university readiness standards and placement assessment for undergraduate students entering the university.

Professor Darci L. Kracht made a motion to approve the item, and Professor Edward Dauterich seconded.

Dean Eboni J. Pringle explained that the proposal requests to update language and assessment tools. Updates coming from math are providing enrollment clarification or decisions for students who are deemed remediation-free so they know which courses they can choose without taking ALEKS. The writing program is submitting some additional requests for criteria for placement.

Professor Jennifer M. Cunningham stated that they reviewed additional measures for placement. This would mostly affect students on regional campuses. The data is from the Kent Campus that is believed to apply widely. Students that have an ACT score of 16 or 17 and a high school GPA of 3.0 or above do really well in College Writing I. The proposal is to look at high school GPA in addition to ACT scores so that students who have a 16 or 17 and a high school GPA of 3.0 or above will be placed directly into College Writing I instead of the stretch remedial course. This would affect about 100 students every semester.

Without questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

With no other comments, questions or concerns, Interim Provost Melody J. Tankersley adjourned the meeting at 4:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christa N. Ord
Administrative Secretary, Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost