



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 20 May 2019

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Co-Chair Pamela E. Grimm; Deans Sonia A. Alemagno, James L. Blank, Barbara A. Broome, Kenneth J. Burhanna, James C. Hannon (represented by Alicia Crowe), Eboni J. Pringle, Amy L. Reynolds, Allison J. Smith (represented by Frank Congin), Deborah F. Spake; Associate Deans Cathy L. DuBois, Miriam L. Matteson, Stephen A. Mitchell, Wendy A. Umberger, Manfred H. Van Dulmen; Assistant Dean Kara L. Robinson

Ex-officio Members not present (or not represented): Provost Todd A. Diacon; Senior Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley; Deans Christina L. Bloebaum, Nathan P. Ritchey; Associate Deans Cynthia R. Stillings, William T. Willoughby

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Edward Dauterich, Darci L. Kracht (represented by Donald Williams); Associate Professors Ann C. Abraham, Jeffrey Ciesla, Jennifer M. Cunningham

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Christopher J. Fenk, Robert J. Twieg; Associate Professor Vanessa J. Earp

Council Representatives present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Said Shiyab; Associate Professors Jooyoun Park, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Kathy Chen (represented), Duane J. Ehredt

Council Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Paul M. Haridakis, Richard L. Mangrum, Christopher Rowan, Simon Song, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Ivan A. Bernal, Natalie L. Caine-Bish, Geoffrey Steinberg, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran, Sara Bayramzadeh, Derek Kingsley; Associate Lecturer Timothy Roberts; Lecturer Mary Kutchin

Observers not present: Stephen Farhat, Lauren Oswald, Antonina Pakholkova Mohamed, Timothy Rose

Consultants and Guests present: Susan A. Augustine, Aimee J. Bell, Alicia R. Crowe, Lynette Johnson, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Christa N. Ord, Gail M. Rebeta, Matthew M. Rollyson, Hollie B. Simpson, Linnea A. Stafford, Therese E. Tillett, Catherine M. Zingrone, Mary Dellmann-Jenkins, Donna Alexander

Co-Chair Pamela E. Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:22p.m., on Monday, 20 May 2019, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent State Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item I: Approval of the 15 April 2019 meeting minutes.

Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell made a motion to approve the item, and Professor Michael W. Chunn seconded. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Joint EPC Action Item II: Restructure of the Educational Policies Council.

Professor Edward Dauterich explained that the EPC Review Task Force was created to revise the structure due. A split committee of graduate and undergraduate members was created in 2008 to involve graduate faculty more. The Provost had concerns about the size, lack of engagement and the issues being approved without making it to senate. The proposal is to revert the committee back to a single body. Most administrators will be eliminated, but the committee will have two administrative members from college offices and one administrative member from the Provost's office. Otherwise, membership will include two faculty members from each degree-granting colleges. The recommendation is that at least one of the faculty have experience teaching undergraduate courses and one have current graduate faculty status. If it is not possible for at least one member from a college to have taught undergraduate courses, such as podiatric medicine, then they may send two members they choose. The committee membership is down to 32 from 60. The meetings will be held in a different room other than the Governance Chambers. Additionally, there will be an Executive EPC that will access excess information not debated on the floor. If the policy passes EPC, it will move for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Associate Dean Alicia R. Crowe made a motion to approve and Associate Dean Wendy A. Umberger seconded.

With no questions or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

Graduate EPC Action Item I: Establishment of a policy for graduate minors.

Associate Dean Manfred Van Dulmen explained that the proposal is to establish minors at the graduate level. The proposal includes nine credits of coursework; six unique and three overlapping with requirements in the major. Concentrations are specific to the major. Cognates do not appear on the transcript, but minors would. A benefit of minors at the graduate level is that they are linked to gainful employment. Other benefits are for students to be able to take collegiate coursework outside of their major and would allow programs to have interdisciplinary minors.

Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell motioned to approve and Associate Professor Jeffrey Ciesla seconded the motion.

Co-chair Pamela E. Grimm asked about the control with an interdisciplinary coursework that comes from three different areas.

Associate Dean Van Dulmen replied that it would depend on the compilation of the colleges involved. If between colleges, Graduate Studies could oversee that.

Co-chair Grimm expressed the need for language about interdisciplinary minors to be included.

Therese E. Tillett explained that the academic areas working together on the minor will submit the proposal together. She suggested eliminating the sentence "Minors are administered sponsored by the academic unit that offers the courses in that discipline."

Associate Dean Van Dulmen agreed that the sentence could be removed.

Kara L. Robinson made a motion to approve the amendment and Michael W. Chunn seconded.

With no further questions or concerns, the amendment and item passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item I: Establishment of a GPA policy for undergraduate majors, minors and certificates.

Dean Eboni J. Pringle explained that the EPC Ad Hoc committee reviewed the Kent State process for calculating major and minor GPA for graduation. The major GPA is used as a graduation requirement. Students must meet a certain major GPA to graduate. In addition to the major GPA, students must meet an overall GPA, the program requirements, grade requirements in specific courses, university requirements and total credit hours for graduation. The major GPA is only displayed in the GPS audit. It is not stored in banner and is not used for honors or admission to graduate studies. There is no policy on the calculation of major, minor and certificate GPA. The current practice for major GPA calculation in GPS is viewed as punitive to students. The major GPA counts all courses that complete or potentially complete a major requirement. For example, if a student is required to take one major course from a list and they take three from the list receiving an A, C and D, all of those grades are included in the major GPA. However, with the proposed change, only the A would count in the major GPA to satisfy the requirement. All of the grades will count in the overall GPA. The minor and certificates work similarly. If the student takes three courses out of the list of five, but only one is required, then the highest grade counts in the minor or certificate GPA. The EPC Ad Hoc committee reviewed current policies, examined other GPS audit options and sought feedback from colleagues from a number of colleges and different advising offices. The committee is recommending that major, minor and certificate GPA calculation would follow the same guidelines. The EPC Ad Hoc committee believes that major and minor GPA are more accurately represented with the minimum coursework requirements. Students will not be penalized in their major GPA for taking courses above what is required to graduate. This option only has an effect when there are multiple completed courses for a requirement. This does not change program curriculum as set forth by faculty; any minimum grades for courses, minimum GPA for graduation or overall GPA to graduate. Ultimately, the revision is to better support student's success.

Professor Edward Dauterich made a motion to approve and Associate Dean Alicia R. Crowe seconded.

Associate Professor Jeffrey Ciesla asked if the change could be detrimental to students when they cannot take more courses to raise their major, minor or certificate GPA.

Therese E. Tillett replied that if a student needs to raise their major GPA, the advisor would most likely recommend that the student repeat some major courses and have the lower grade forgiven rather than taking other courses.

Associate Professor Melissa D. Zullo added that if the student took additional courses for a requirement, then the higher attempt would bump out a lower attempted course grade.

Co-chair Pamela E. Grimm asked if the department has the right to include all eligible courses to be included in the major or minor GPA.

Dean Pringle responded that the department could say which courses would fulfill their requirements, but not that all possible courses to fulfill requirements would be included in the major or minor GPA. Departments may choose certain grade achievements for courses.

Professor Dauterich added that it is eliminating additional courses taken from hurting the major GPA. Only the highest attempts would complete the requirement.

Co-chair Pamela E. Grimm asked the EPC Ad Hoc committee members if there was discussion with department chairs on this change.

Associate Dean Matthew M. Rollyson stated that he talked with the college curriculum chairs and school directors. He said the responses were supportive. People agreed that the highest grade that fulfills a major requirement should be applied to the major GPA and nothing beyond the requirement.

Associate Dean Stephen A. Mitchell said that the policy was reviewed by EHHS program coordinators and they were comfortable with the change.

Therese E. Tillett added that any college that was not represented on the committee was reached out to about the policy. She said this policy received the most positive feedback.

Co-chair Grimm asked if this change would require departments to change their policy wording.

Therese replied no and that it is a university policy. Any college that has information about including all applicable courses in the major or minor GPA will change revise policy.

Professor Donald L. White stated that any college that is concerned about GPA's going up from this change can raise their major GPA requirement.

With no further questions or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item II: Establishment of a Long-Term Care Administration [LTCA] major within the Bachelor of Science [BS] degree.

School Director Mary M. Dellmann-Jenkins said that the state of Ohio mandated that any academic program that leads to licensure of nursing home administration needed to also be accredited by a national organization—National Association of Long-Term Care Administrators. There are approximately only four other schools in Ohio that offer this program. There were many recommendations in revising the curriculum to better prepare students working with vulnerable population. It is a very interdisciplinary program and the school has consulted with Public Health and Business Administration. This program has grown from a concentration into a four-year program.

Donna C. Alexander added that the curriculum needs to be interdisciplinary with all of the colleges. The students need to be prepared to work with many different disciplines so it is important that it is multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary. Licensure pass rates need to be improved as well. They have to be maintained at a certain level for accreditation. Additionally, some of the licensure and accreditation have changed and they need to be effective for the upcoming accreditation visit in 2021.

Professor Edward Dauterich motioned to approve and Dean Sonia A. Alemagno seconded the motion.

Members had no further questions or comments and the item passed unanimously.

With no requests for additional discussion, Co-Chair Grimm adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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