EPC – Minutes
August 28, 2001

Attending: Carolyn Boggs, Darlene Crouch (recorder), Gary DeFotis, Mike Finn, Evelyn Hall, Satoshi Ito, Tom Payne, Constance Pilkington, Jennifer Taylor, Barbara Watkinson, and Don Welsh

Joan Gavaler, the new Chair of EPC, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm in the University Center, Colony Room.

Joan introduced herself and all the members present introduced themselves.

Joan mentioned that the status of the EPC course information on-line is not yet updated. Its administration needs to be transferred to Joan. Also, retired EPC members need to be deleted, and new EPC members need to be added. Eric Koskinen the student who updated the system last year graduated. Dean Watkinson has hired another student, Lee Fuquay, to get the system up and running this year. The voting system will be the same as last year. If courses are not approved unanimously, they will be brought up for discussion at the meeting.

The Digital Information Literacy sub-committee worked over the summer and got the pilot project in place. Four modules are up and running. At random two hundred freshmen were picked and sent a letter in August informing them of the pilot project. After the semester settles down they will be asked to complete the test modules. Joan mentioned that SCHEV seems more interested in learning whether students know how to use particular programs, however W&M wants to know whether students know how to think critically about the computing resources they are able to use. This proposed re-organization of the computing requirement would not necessarily do away with the concentration computing proficiency requirement if individual departments decide that upper level computing skills must be part of their concentration. Connie mentioned that it would make teaching easier, if faculty knows that all students have a baseline of computing skills their freshman year.

The EPC will receive Assessment Working Group Reports for GER 2, GER 4, and GER 6 this year. EPC has already reviewed the reports for GER 1, 3, 5 and 7. Joan suggested that sub-committees could be formed to draft sections of the final EPC report on the status of all the GERs.

Joan mentioned that EPC will continue to respond to recommendations from the Registrar's catalog committee to help create consistency throughout the catalog.

Joan requested that Carolyn Boggs provide her with the deadline dates for course approvals for Spring 2002 and Fall 2002. Joan will send email to department chairs informing them of the deadlines.

Dean Watkinson mentioned that the unexpectedly large freshman class has caused concern for both administrators and faculty. For the past two years W&M has had large freshmen classes,

and this has caused a need for additional funding and adjunct faculty, and there are no extra resources to draw from. These two large classes have caused a four-year funding issue. Dean Watkinson asked whether the EPC would look at the situation and perhaps send a message that funding is needed. The Arts and Sciences faculty stated several years ago that they do not want to grow too large, as the character of the college will change. The goal has been to stay with the limit of 1290 entering freshmen, but this year we have 1360 freshmen. While this number appears to be only 50 over target, it is really 130 students over the limit. This year's target was 1230 students to compensate for the 60 additional students of the 2000 entering class. Satoshi suggested that if a sub-committee is formed, a person from the Admissions office should be on it.

Last semester the EPC deferred the question: "What is the minimum grade for satisfying the Concentration Computing Proficiency Requirement?" It will be discussed this semester.

The minutes from the April 23, 2001 meeting will be deferred until the next meeting. Joan will notify everyone of the next meeting.   Wednesday at 4:00 pm seems to be best meeting time for members. Joan hopes we will only have to meet every other week.

The EPC meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Crouch, Secretary