

EPC - Minutes
October 3, 2001

Attending: Ruth Beck, Carolyn Boggs, Cory Butler, Darlene Crouch (recorder), Jim Deffenbaugh, Gary DeFotis, Mike Finn, Satoshi Ito and Tom Payne

Joan Gavalier, Chair of EPC, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm in Small 123.

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. September 19, 2001 - approved

II. Course Applications:

A. New Course:

1. APSC 451, Cellular Biophysics and Modeling - approved
2. CIV 480, Research in Classical Studies - approved
3. HIST 208, History of South Asia - approved
4. MUS 350, Special Topics in Music Performance - approved on 1/22/01

B. Course Changes:

1. MUS 01-01, Group Voice for Beginners (new number, new title, and new catalog description) - approved

C. GER Course:

1. FR 391, French Theatre in Performance (cross-listed with THEA 460) - approved for GER 6
2. HIST 104, Global History 1815-1914 - (changed from GER 4A to GER 4C) approved for GER 4C
3. HIST 208, History of South Asia - approved for GER 4B
4. HIST 217, European History 1815-1914 - approved for GER 4A
5. HIST 218, European History 1918-1945 - approved for GER 4A
6. RUS 250, Russian Myths and Legends - approved for GER 4A and GER 5

Joan mentioned that Lee Fuquay has backed away from working with the EPC on-line system, because he doesn't have time with his class schedule. She is hopeful she can find another student to help with the project.

III. At least four departments have pre-approved GER credit for their Freshman Seminars listed in the catalog. There are two items for discussion in relation to this:

1. Remove catalog pre-approval and require each new topic to submit a request for GER credit.

The EPC members agreed that this step should be taken and approved the change for the 2002-03 Catalog.

2. Remove the possibility of having any freshman seminar also count towards a GER.

Cory Butler said freshman seminars are only listed in the Bulletin and not the W&M Catalog. It was mentioned that the departments approve freshman seminars since the courses are of a different breed. Mike Finn agreed to write a draft proposal for the next EPC meeting that would be brought before the Faculty in December.

IV. Policy Revisions for Consideration:

1. Summer School: It has been the policy for the Cambridge and Florence Summer Study Abroad Programs to permit William and Mary students to take one course Pass/Fail from a William and Mary professor. This is only a privilege allowed to students participating in these summer programs and not to the William and Mary programs in Mexico, Russia, France or Germany. Moreover, students enrolled in William and Mary's summer school are not permitted to take a course Pass/Fail.

Barbara Watkinson asked that the EPC consider removing this option from the Cambridge and Florence summer programs. Beginning in Summer 2002, students may not be assigned to their first choice program and Dean Watkinson is concerned that students in Cambridge and Florence are in a more advantageous situation than any other William and Mary students - abroad and at home - who are taking summer courses.

Discussion turned to the general question of grade hysteria exhibited by students in Summer 2001 programs. Because the Committee on Degrees receives several petitions from students who have studied abroad and who have received Pass/Fail for courses taught by non-William and Mary faculty to satisfy GER requirements, Dean Watkinson thought it was reasonable to view the non-William and Mary faculty as adjuncts. They could, therefore, assign letter grades just like adjunct faculty employed on campus. Misinformation and miscommunication of this policy resulted in a small, but very vocal and parent-involved, group from the French and Mexico programs to contact the President and Dean Feiss. It was decided that Dean Watkinson's policy should be suspended until further review. In the meantime, letter grades for all students were submitted for both programs and the majority of grades were A's, the lowest was a single B-.

After discussion the EPC members agreed that it was a breach of policy against what was stated in the catalog to allow study abroad students in the Cambridge and Florence programs to take courses Pass/Fail. In keeping with the standards of the college, EPC members approved to have all William and Mary summer school and summer study abroad courses receive a letter grade. EPC will present a draft to be brought before the faculty at the December meeting.

V. Large freshman class/effect on curriculum and funding - preliminary response from Katherine Kulick.

1. Katherine Kulick informed Joan that she would get back to the EPC on the questions concerning the issues of the large freshman class.

The EPC meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

The next scheduled EPC meeting is Oct. 17 at 4:00 pm, Small 123.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Crouch, Secretary