

EPC – Minutes  
October 9, 2003

Attendance: Howard Busbee, John Charles, Debbie Eck (recorder), Phil Kearns, Amy Firestone, John Gibney, Arthur Knight, Larry Leemis, Laurie McManus, Edward Pratt, Jenny Taylor, Tamara Sonn

Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm in the University Center James Room.

September 4, 2003, minutes was approved.

The following courses were voted on, approved, or tabled:

ARAB 304—Introduction to Arabic Dialects—New Course--Approved

CHIN 306: Advanced Conversation—New Course--Approved

GOVT 308: Electoral Systems—New Course--Approved

GOVT 498: Internship—New Course--Tabled

ECON 310: Game Theory--Description Change--Approved

Edward Pratt addressed some issues concerning the DIL (Digital Information Literacy) test. How many times should a student be allowed to take the test before passing it? Will the student be able to pre-register for classes if s/he does not pass the test? What happens to the student who repeatedly fails? EPC members are to take the test before the next meeting to evaluate the test questions and to identify problems. Is the test hard or is it easy? How long did it take? What changes are needed before students take the test? Starting October 17, 2003 freshmen will begin taking the test. DIL questions and concerns will be addressed at the October 16, 2003, meeting.

Tamara Sonn addressed issues regarding the College Scholars Program. College Scholars will be selected from a pool of nominated high school applicants who demonstrate a well rounded background. The primary question for the EPC at this point concerns whether or not the College Scholars should have some flexibility in their choice of courses that satisfy the GERs. In all likelihood, College Scholars will come to the College having already fulfilled half or more of the GERs, as a result of AP or IB credits and dual enrollment courses taken in high school. With some GERs, there would be no flexibility, because there is a clear progression of courses in some departments. With other GERs, students might be allowed to take an upper-level course not designated as a GER course but that meets the spirit of that particular GER. Several serious issues were raised in the EPC about this issue. One concern raised is that some schools do not offer AP courses, so the number of credits some students come in with is not necessarily a good indicator of intelligence. Overall, there was no consensus; some members felt that College Scholars should be exempt from all College requirements, while others expressed concern over the elitist practice of granting special privileges to some students and not others. The EPC will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Tabled until next meeting:

GER 2 Discussion

GER reports by subcommittees for GER 1, 3, 5

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm