

EPC – Minutes  
November 13, 2003

Attendance: Carolyn Boggs, John Charles, Evelyn Hall, Arthur Knight, Mike Finn, Amy Firestone, Larry Leemis, Laurie McManus, Edward Pratt, Jenny Taylor, Debbie Eck (recorder)

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm in the University Center York Room.

Kay Floyd from the Department of College Policy of the Student Assembly presented the Self-Scheduled Exam proposal. Ms. Floyd stressed the importance of the flexibility of self scheduling for the students. Currently some students have 3 consecutive tests, a fact that causes enormous stress and which sometimes results in lower test scores. Ms. Floyd also pointed out that by having the self-scheduled exams, the college might save money because of the proposed shorter testing time frame. Ms. Floyd contended that students would continue to uphold the Honor Code even under the new circumstances. According to her proposal, each student would sign out his or her tests and sign them back at the end of the test period. Take-homes would work the way they do now. Under the proposed system, the Registrar's Office would receive the exams from all the departments and would coordinate the exam process.

Faculty and staff on the EPC had several questions and concerns in response to Ms. Floyd's presentation:

The Registrar, Carolyn Boggs, expressed bafflement about why her office had never been involved in this Self-Scheduled Exam proposal process. Boggs went on to argue that there are many logistical problems involved with such a proposal. This self-scheduled exam has to be paid for; the Registrar's office is already understaffed and this would cause more of a workload with this new exam scheduling. Banner system would have to be updated to handle this new test schedule system. Again, this would cost more money for the college. Several faculty members and the Dean of Undergraduate Students, Ed Pratt, agreed with the Registrar that the logistics of such a proposal are very complex and expensive. For faculty, too, the new system appears to mean more work than the system now in place: professors would have to get exam schedules from students, share them with the chair of the department, make all exams very early to be delivered to the Registrar's office, and make special arrangements for certain kinds of courses.

EPC argued that the benefits of the new system did not seem to outweigh the potential costs. The new system would not be more cost effective, and many faculty would feel obligated to be at all 18 scheduled blocks of exams during the 2 week exam time. Ms. Floyd pointed out that volunteers might proctor these exams, but some on EPC felt that the faculty should have to attend exams their own students scheduled in case students had questions.

EPC thanked Ms. Floyd for coming forward and for all her work on the proposal.

In the end, EPC voted not to take the proposal to the faculty for further discussion.

**Chinese Major Proposal:**

Given the small number of majors now in Chinese (roughly five per year over the last five years), EPC was concerned that the program might not be viable under the new and more stringent SCHEV requirements for majors. EPC passed a motion to have the chair write a motion to reject the Chinese Major Proposal. This motion would be sent out on line and voted on. On-line votes must be unanimous in order to pass. If the decision is not unanimous, the motion will be discussed at the Dec. 4 meeting.

Adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Tabled for next meeting December 4, 2003:

History: changes in Advanced Placement requirements

History: changes in Minor Requirements

Religion: update of courses fulfilling Major Writing Requirements