

Educational Policy Committee
Minutes: October 26, 2004
S. Broadwater, reporting

Those present were: Phil Kearns (Chair), Sharon Broadwater, Cory Butler, John Charles, John Eisele, Kristen Grabow, Sharon Jones, Justin Kliger, Arthur Knight, Larry Leemis, Raymond McCoy, Edward Pratt, James Whittenberg

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Colony Room of the University Center.

The first order of business was a clarification of the Bylaws which indicate that the three student members of the EPC have full voting rights. Phil Kearns also introduced Sharon Jones, our new student member.

There were three course applications under consideration; only 4-5 votes had been cast electronically.

New Course Applications:

ARAB 250. A question concerning the extent of assignments outside of class was discussed briefly and determined to be acceptable.
All in favor.

Course Change Application:

RELG 342. The basic change was to add a writing requirement.
Application accepted without debate.

GER Applications:

MUSC E22. Application tabled until a syllabus is submitted. Also requested was a clarification of the term "hysteric" in the course title.

MUSC E24. Concerns discussed: Method of student recruitment (via auditions); repetition of course for credit (found to be in line with similar courses); grade determination (amount of original work, performance, individual and group projects). Passed

GER 1 Issue:

Prerequisites for GER-1. George Rublein, Acting Chair, Mathematics Dept. submitted a concern of the Math Department that two statistics

courses (Sociology 353 and Kinesiology 394) did not conform to the guidelines for GER 1 since these courses either do not have a prerequisite (KIN 394) or have an optional prerequisite (SOC 353). The Mathematics Dept. fully accepts the legitimacy of statistics courses in other Departments, but is concerned that, without a prerequisite, such courses may spend too much time on discipline-specific material at the expense of a more inclusive view of statistics. The EPC felt that the concern was legitimate. Ray McCoy indicated that Kinesiology will submit a prerequisite soon. Phil Kearns indicated he would contact Sociology, and Corey Butler will find out whether or not SOC 353 is accorded GER 1 credit. It was noted that GER 1 APPLICATION FOR GER APPROVAL indicates that departments other than Mathematics will ordinarily have a subject matter prerequisite. It was recommended that ordinarily be reconsidered with possible removal for clarity.

Registration Issue (Discussion only; no vote):

Access of freshmen to the registration system. Ed Pratt requested the EPC consider a draft proposal to alter the current registration system which allows freshmen with college credit earlier access to the system. This proposal was prompted, in part, by the concerns of parents and the Board of Trustees that some students with disadvantaged backgrounds are further handicapped by the current system since opportunities for acquiring AP, IB or college credit are not present in some localities.

Ed Pratt indicated that the best solution is to have all social freshman register at the same time, but the system may not be able to handle such numbers. An alternative for first semester is to split the class into 3 groups based on randomized alternative pin numbers. To accommodate students without a freshman seminar, the second semester might have a three tier system:

1st registration: students not completing a freshman seminar
register for 8 credits

2nd registration: all other students register for 8 hours

3rd registration: registration to 16 credit hours in three time
slots based on alternative pin numbers.

Justin Kliger suggested that taking away the registration advantage of students with AP, IB or college credit may have a negative effect on recruiting some of these students.

Catalog Description Change for Minors:

Following change in the catalog copy describing the minor was approved:

Minors: In addition to the required major, a student may elect to pursue a program of studies designated as a minor. A minor consists of 18-22 credit hours of courses approved by a department or program. Courses completed for a minor may also satisfy GER requirements. None of these courses may be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. A student must earn at least a 2.00 grade point average in the minor. Information about specific minors can be obtained from the appropriate department or program. A maximum of two courses may be counted for both a major and a minor. A student who intends to complete a minor must officially declare the minor with the department or program, then take the Declaration of Minor form to the Office of the Registrar. The declaration of minor should be filed with the Office of the Registrar before submission of the Notice of Candidacy for a Degree. A student who declares two majors may not declare a minor.

Other suggestions:

1. Make a single standard Declaration of Minor form rather than different departmental forms. Cory Butler will check on the possibility.
2. Put the minor information on the standard course planning form.

Simmons School of Health Studies (SSHS):

Ed Pratt brought a proposal from SSHS proposing that WM third year students (5/yr) interested in a Doctor of Physical Therapy would transfer to SSHS. In an accelerated degree program, those maintaining a GPA of 3.0 would receive an undergraduate degree from WM and reduce their time toward a doctorate by one year. Similar programs in medicine and forestry have not been pursued by students in recent years. Ray McCoy will check with the Kinesiology Dept. to determine the level of interest.

Miscellaneous (Kristen Grabow):

Mentoring Program: This program, with an impressive 350 upperclassmen volunteering to be advisors (academics & social), is already in place this year. All entering freshmen who requested one received a mentor; the interactions are flexible and centered on the student's needs/interests. The system appears to be working well, and students are now working on a discussion board for student feedback.