

Educational Policy Committee Minutes, October 2, 2014

Present: Jack Martin (chair), Josh Erlich, Martha Higgins, Lu Ann Homza, Bill Hutton, Heather Macdonald, Sallie Marchello, Weizhen Mao, Monica Potkay, Denise Ridley-Johnston, Cory Springer, and Peter Vishton.

Scribe: Weizhen Mao

1. EPC regular matters

For the seven applications voted online, two worth attention:

- (a) RELG 308 lacks a category designation to be a GER 4 course. EPC suggests GER 4B.
- (b) The new requirement for the B.S. degree in Psychology allows KINE 303 and 304 to count toward the three science courses. Although recognizing the biology content in KINE 303 and 304, EPC is concerned with the inconsistency between the proposed requirement and the catalog language describing the B.S. EPC suggests resubmission to propose a solution to the inconsistency.

In summary, EPC approves six applications (INRL 480, English, French, AMST, Philosophy, and Religious Studies) and tables the application from Psychology.

2. Assessment of COLL 100

Heather reported on the assessment methods for COLL 100 being considered by the ASC.

Conducting student survey was discussed as an effective tool to gather feedback on issues such as the 25-student limit on class size (unless team-taught). The discussion about the size limit is highlighted below.

- (a) Why impose the class limit? Communication skills are best learned in a small class setting.
- (b) Why raise the limit? “Big ideas” emphasized in COLL 100 can be effectively taught in a large class setting, while the “communication component” may be implemented through smaller discussion sections.
- (c) The balance between demand and supply: Do we have enough teaching resource to offer about 64 COLL 100’s in AY 2015-2016?
- (d) A compromise: Allow some courses to raise the limit, run the experiment for some time, collect data for assessment, and then decide the optimal value for the limit.

Motion approved by EPC and to be submitted to the November FAS meeting:

For two years (AY 2015-17), to allow COLL 100’s to be as large as 75 students if they have discussion sections of no more than 25 students, or to be as large as 40 students with no discussion sections. This would allow a pilot study of the effect of class size on learning objectives.

Note: Jack will modify the COLL 100 form to have a box for desired class size.

3. Workflow for COLL 100, 150, and 200 submissions
 - (a) COLL 100 and 150: The review of the catalog descriptions for COLL 100 and 150 topics courses is relatively easy since template language can be used. We decided that a subcommittee of three, including one from the Registrar's office, could do the work. Others might want to see the applications, though. In addition, EPC will set up a Communication Group to review the communication component in COLL 100 sections, while the Writing Committee will review the writing component in COLL 150. Dean Homza will send a list of suggested group members. We may propose a Communications Committee at a later date.
 - (b) COLL 200: Review committees should be balanced in terms of domains. The review and voting will be done online. The implementation of the online system is yet to be decided.
4. The minutes for the EPC meeting held on September 25, 2014 are approved unanimously.