

EPC Minutes
Friday 3/4 8:30 - 10:00 am

Present: Bill Hutton, Marc Sher, Weizhen Mao, Jenny Taylor, Michele Jackson, Cory Springer, Sally Marchello, Hiroshi Kitamura, Monica Potkay, Peter Vishton, Jack Martin (scribe).

1. The minutes of 2/19/16 were received too late for consideration.
2. The minutes of 2/23/16 were approved.
3. Brief announcements:
 - a) Paul Blossom will be replaced on EPC by Don Rahtz;
 - b) After the EPC elections for next year, we will elect a new chair;
 - c) Discussion of the last FAS meeting: the motions to replace the Active Learning Proficiency with a Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency was approved; the motion to allow COLL 150s in different languages failed.
4. Credit-hour/online policy & form. We discussed the draft Delinking Policy with Michele Jackson. She noted that federal guidelines require institutions to verify the identity of students (not to eliminate cheating). We agreed to put the Delinking Policy in Curriculum and to route proposals that involve eLearning through the Office of University of eLearning Initiatives. Bill will work on form language for our next meeting.
5. Pass-fail policy. Monica Potkay had noted that students in some departments have been taking courses pass/fail in their major, as long as they don't fulfill major requirements. She also suggested that our threshold for passing was too low. Currently it takes only a D- to pass a course. Marc Sher looked at a sample of other schools:

UNC	C-
NC State	C-
Duke	C-
Maryland	D-
Virginia Tech	D
Cornell	C-
Hopkins	C-
Florida	C
UCLA	C
Washington	C
Michigan	C-
UVA	tell instructor beforehand who decides the threshold

There was support on EPC for raising "Pass" to C-, but we were concerned about possible implications. If a student received a D, D+, or D- in a Pass/Fail course, should the grade be recorded? We should consider the effect on a student's GPA and whether a Fail grade would still count toward a student's 12 credits in a semester. There is also uncertainty as to whether a student can take a course Pass/Fail during the Winter session (in the DC Program). Currently the catalog says it has to be a full semester. Also, the language in the catalog isn't clear about whether elective courses for a major/minor can be taken Pass/Fail.

6. Strategy for study-away COLL 300s.

Jack explained that he had been trying to find a flexible solution for COLL 300 in which a student takes a course at W&M and then has a separate trip before, during, or after the course. He proposed a “Post-Travel COLL 300 Approval Form”. The Charles Center would administer it. An instructor and student would propose a specific 3-credit course that would be related to a trip of at least a week. They would then answer questions on the form showing the student had had the required experiences. The form would be approved by the chair/director. The Charles Center would send the form to the Registrar, who would then give COLL 300 credit.

Members of EPC liked the flexibility of this solution. They wanted to study the form more to see whether it had sufficient oversight.

We also discussed the situation where a course might carry COLL 300 credit, but in which only a portion of the students might travel. One solution we had considered was a zero-credit COLL 300 lab that would be associated with a 3-credit course. Sally argued against zero-credit COLL 300 labs, saying that they would lead to situations in which students might fail the 3-credit course and still get COLL 300 credit. Her recommendation was to have two alternative 3-credit courses.

7. The following course/degree changes were approved:

- Sociology: new major tracks.
- BIOL xxx (BIOL 456 lab).
- PSYC 270 (change number to 440 and add prereqs).
- GRMN 306 Page to Stage (New Course).
- CAMS: Catalogue language improvements.
- Public Policy: Substitute new version of SOCL course in major requirements.
- Public Policy: Add permanent number for GOVT course that was previously a topics course.