Educational Policy Committee
Minutes from 11/30/18

In attendance: Elizabeth Harbron (chair), John Donahue, Susan Bosworth, Candice Benjes-Small, Mike Kordosky, Mike Deschenes, Cory Springer, Tom Linneman, Jackie Keshner, Katharine Brownfiel, Tuska Benes, Jonathan Glasser, Randy Coleman, Sallie Marchello, Brian Kreydatus (secretary)

Meeting began at 11:02am

1. **Data Science B.S. proposal**
   At the last EPC meeting on 11/16/18 we were presented with a proposal for a major in Data Science with a B.S. EPC members were asked to read and consider the proposal. Prof Matthias Leu and Dean Janice Zeman were invited to today's meeting to give background information and answer any questions.
   Prof. Leu started by giving a brief history of Data Science at William and Mary and rationale for a major resulting in a B.S. He stated that there is a strong job market for students in data science and that there has been an explosion of student interest at the college in this field. There are currently 51 students on campus involved in Data Science – 22 minors and 29 self-designed majors. This large amount of students has simply become too big to handle administratively under the current system. Prof Leu went on to state that William and Mary is a unique environment in which to have a Data Science major due to our strong emphasis on liberal arts. He mentioned that several representatives from industries including the Navy, commented on how well-rounded, agile thinkers, from liberal arts backgrounds are needed for this field which will continue to grow.

   EPC members had several questions:
   Why a B.S. first, when so many of the current students- minors and self-designed majors are from non-science/math fields?
   Prof. Leu stated Richmond's strong support for STEM initiatives and programs. Susan Bosworth interjected that SHEV's definition of STEM is not defined exclusively by the traditional sciences. This led to discussion of the eventual transition to offering both a B.S. and B.A in Data Science. Prof. Leu said that when a B.A. is established the core courses will remain the same but that there would be some adjustments on the other requirements.
   Will the money continue for the B.S., will there be more needed with a B.A., and will departments pull out of their commitments to this major?
   Prof. Leu stated the money for this program is base funded from Richmond so it should be an on-going commitment from the state. He also stated with Amazon moving to Northern Virginia and the Navy looking to hire 800 data scientist it seems the right climate for this type of proposal.
   With the proposed NTE in Math and TE line requested for Government, he is not anticipating any additional faculty needs when a B.A. is developed.
   As this is by nature an major that spans several departments including math, data science, government, and philosophy he will keep in close contact with their chairs to make sure they continue to participate.
   Will this be a stand-alone major and can students double major-particularly in closely related fields like Math, CAMS, or Business Analytics?
   This would be a stand-alone major- you would not be required to have a second major although it would be encouraged. Prof. Leu stated you could double major in a closely related field

although it would not be encouraged. It was brought up that if you double majored in a closely related field that some of the requirements would overlap and that only two classes can "double dip" for two different majors.

After Prof. Leu and Dean Zeman left, EPC continued their discussion

Several points were brought up:

- 41 credits seems high, but many other majors have pre-requisites that are not counted in the major and if they were, would bring similar credit hour requirements

- Will this major be marketable if they don't go into Data Science? Yes, and the comparison was made to neuroscience majors who go into a wide variety of fields after graduation.

- The most substantial discussion revolved around double majoring. There is the issue of "double dipping" and perhaps more importantly, the concern that students in closely related fields (ex. Business Analytics, CAMS) would double major weakening the argument that our Data Science majors would have a uniquely broad liberal arts education.

EPC voted unanimously to support the request for a Data Science B.S. with a "friendly" suggestion that they may want to consider strongly encouraging a second major in an unrelated field and not allowing students to double major in a field too closely related in Data Science such as Business Analytics and CAMS.

2. **The minutes from 11/16/18 were approved**

3. **Consent calendar-** All courses on the consent calendar (below) were approved

CSCI 464- Applied Cybersecurity (re-review)	new course application
ENGL 416B- Lesbian Literatures	new course application
ENGL 419B- Hemingway: The Man and the Myth	new course application
ENGL 419C- Edith Wharton and Her Milieu	new course application
GOVT 470- Congress and the President (re-review)	COLL 400
INTR 162- Transitions: St Andrews	new course application
NSCI 490- Neuroscience Capstone	COLL 400
RELG 303- Poets and Prophets	COLL 200 (CSI>ALV)
SOCL 412- Social Inequality and Health	course change application

4. **Proposals- for discussion**

Mathematics- data science to be applied retroactively	curriculum change application	approved and allowed
GOVT 336_ Politics of China and Japan (re-review)	COLL 200 (CSI>ALV)	Approved
KINE 465- Leadership in Kinesiology & Health Sciences	new course application	Approved

5. **New Business**

Spring EPC meeting will take place on Fridays from 2-3pm

The meeting adjourned at 11:36am