

EPC Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2022

In attendance: Annie Blazer, Ben Boone, Susan Bosworth, Magali Compan, Josh Erlich, Larry Evans, Denise Ridley-Johnston, M. Brennan Harris, Matt Haug, Jim Deverick, Christy Porter, Kristin Wustholz (chair) (Tom Zhang and Amy Xia joined about half-way through the meeting.)

1. Approval of the minutes from the Feb. 4, 2022 meeting

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

2. Consent Calendar

Environmental Science and Policy - Environmental Science and Policy Curriculum change

This proposal, to change the name of the Environmental Science and Policy program to “Environment and Sustainability,” and to change the prefix of ENSP courses to ENVS, will need to go through the Institutional Change process.

RELG - 213 - Introduction to Hinduism

COLL 300

The consent calendar was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Carryovers

UREG Department - N/A

Curriculum Change

This is the proposal for a CONS concentration within the INTR major in A&S. There was some discussion of supplementary material that was included in the proposal concerning a long-term plan to make CONS a “stand-alone” major. It was clarified that a vote in favor of the current proposal does not indicate approval or disapproval of that long-term plan. The proposal passed with seven votes in favor and none opposed.

4. Questions and suggestions for the ad hoc committee on the sustainability of the COLL curriculum

An ad hoc committee on the COLL curriculum has been formed, with Annie, Ben, and Kristin among its members. Kristin asked for input from EPC members regarding issues that this committee may want to consider.

There was some discussion about the timing and scope of the review of the COLL curriculum (e.g., that it is unfortunately occurring when the pandemic is still having temporary effects on resources; the importance of distinguishing long-term and short-term questions concerning the COLL curriculum; the need for data about future numbers of faculty; the role of fundraising and development). Concerns were raised about perhaps inaccurate comparisons of W&M to other institutions (concerning curricula) and about the extent to which this curricular review is motivated by a future increase in the size of the student body (which may make smaller COLL courses more difficult to deliver). Members also emphasized the importance of faculty input in decision making, especially because this is academic matter concerning the curriculum and not simply a budgetary or strategic planning issue. Relatedly, some committee members suggested that faculty input be solicited in many ways (e.g., special FAS meetings, townhalls, surveys; some of which the committee is already planning). In response to Ben’s request for suggestions about ways to express informal or anecdotal evidence of past difficulties in implementing the COLL curriculum, Kristin suggested that a combination of quantitative data and specific examples might be compelling. Data from the curriculum review of COLL100 (possibly conducted in 2017) would also be relevant to the committee’s work.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

-Submitted by mch