

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

May 5, 2011

Present: Professors Easter, Koepp, Olson, and Stiadle, Student Representative A. Schloop '12, Provost Miller-Bernal (chair), Associate Provost Speaker, and Jamey Ventura

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am.

1. Minutes from both the April 21 and April 28 meetings were approved with minor changes.
2. January Week Discussion
 - a. Jamey Ventura, Director of Athletics, was present to provide feedback on EPC's January mini-week idea. Ventura informed the committee that, while some teams (like swimming) practice twice a day, other team's schedules are not as rigorous. Ventura noted that practices may be held twice a day in order to keep students busy and engaged while on campus. Student athlete practices thus seem to interfere less with possible programming than the EPC January week subcommittee originally thought. The only concrete commitment already on the calendar is a men and women's basketball conference game on January 25. Ventura informed the committee that practices usually last for a two-hour block.

Close to 50 student athletes (with 20-25 of these as first-year students) are on campus during January, as well as all athletics staff. The dining hall currently opens one hour per meal for student athletes staying on campus during January, after an unsuccessful attempt to distribute \$15/day for food to each student athlete.

The committee discussed the possibility of using athletics staff to run possible nutrition or fitness workshops. As a side note, the committee noted that it might be helpful for faculty members to receive athletic schedules before planning class events to avoid conflicts. Ventura left the meeting at 9:50 am.

- b. Later in the meeting, some committee members expressed newfound concern over the viability of a January mini-week conference model. Instead, the college could begin the spring semester a week earlier—possibly in alignment with Cornell's calendar change—and have three or four “celebrating scholarship days.” These days would be spread across several weeks towards the end of the semester (with each on a different day of the week) and could be used for senior thesis presentations and community learning.

These days, the committee noted, could be a Wells trademark. Moving forward, the committee noted that this component might need to be delineated from the proposed Sustainable Community program. As opposed to the January mini-week model, these scholarship days would present far fewer logistical (and perhaps financial) complications.

3. Sustainable Community Discussion

- a. The committee discussed the need to examine the quantitative reasoning description in the handout for faculty distribution: the college's standard on accepting AP credit is a score of four or above. Through this discussion, the committee concluded that our description might be too specific. The committee also noted that the implementation section needs reorganization.
 - b. Faculty members of the committee called for a special faculty meeting on May 17 from noon to 2:00 pm to vote on the Sustainable Community program.
4. For next week, committee members will review the current course catalog and mark which courses fulfill different criteria (CAR, QR, SL, and activity courses). This will be a workable, and not exhaustive, list. QR courses will be marked by Stiadle and Koepp, SL courses by Stiadle and Miller-Bernal, CAR by Miller-Bernal and Olson, and activity by Easter and Speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Schloop '12
Secretary, pro tem