

Educational Policy Committee (EPC) Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2011

Present: Professors Siouxsie Easter, CJ Koepp, Ernie Olson, Tom Stiadle; Student Representative Alex Schloop '12; Provost Leslie Miller-Bernal (chair); and Associate Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

1. Minutes from April 7, 2011 were discussed and approved with a few corrections.
2. The draft report on the capstone survey was discussed and changes suggested. A revised draft will be sent to EPC before the next meeting and, if approved, will be placed on the Globe, with a note to faculty recommending that they read it and noting that we will discuss it at the next faculty meeting.
3. The draft report of the Scientific Literacy subcommittee was discussed and endorsed. We noted that the report's recommendations mean that some psychology lab courses could fulfill this requirement. EPC members expressed appreciation of the justifications that the report contains for requiring students to take a lab course in the sciences, as well as the specification of learning objectives.
4. We discussed a handout from the January Week subcommittee which recommends waiting for another year (until January 2013) before instituting this week (although for at least the initial year, the "week" may actually consist only of three days of programming). Subcommittee members believe that for this week to be successful, we need a groundswell of enthusiasm. Moreover, we need to deal with practical issues, such as, what about first-year athletes who might not be able to be involved? How would Student Life orientation be possible, since contracts for next year's leaders have already gone out and yet a January Week program would mean that they need to return to campus earlier? How would we deal with the credit-bearing aspect? Would this week have a negative impact on January internships? It was noted with respect to the latter point that the number of internships completed in January have decreased since the College stopped requiring students to complete credit-bearing work during January.
5. We briefly discussed the article from the *New York Times* (April 03, 2011, "The Unpaid Intern, Legal or Not") that CJ Koepp brought to our attention. We concluded that our internships do not violate labor laws given our specified learning objectives, i.e., our interns are expected to do more than routine work since they are being given academic credit for experiences meant to be educational.
6. We turned to the overall description of our proposed new Gen Ed program, Sustainable Community, but got stuck on the title for the first-year themed seminar. We agreed that for our next meeting our assignment would be as follows:
 - a) Send each other written ideas for the first year title (or for all three titles if we want to change them in some way, for example, by including a verb) by Monday at 4:30.
 - b) Think about next steps for our work—should we bring the proposal to the faculty for a vote, considering the relatively few number of changes that would have to be made for first-year students in 2011-2012? Should we hold another open meeting to get a sense of faculty's views and plan to bring it to the faculty in September, despite the fact that we will have a new provost and members of EPC will change?

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Miller-Bernal

