

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

September 27, 2011

Present: Professors Cynthia J Koepp, Ted Lossowski, Sally Sievers, Susan Tabrizi; New student member Jeremiah Miller '14; and Provost Cindy Speaker (Chair)

- 1) Meeting opened at 9:30; we welcomed new student member Jeremiah Miller '14.
- 2) Minutes from September 20 were approved with minor change.
- 3) In discussion of class enrollments, it was brought up that the Globe course maximum system works uneasily with the essentially manual waitlist system. There is the possibility of a drop making an opening which a student working via the web can register into, even though there are people waiting on the waitlist, unaware of the opening. Provost Speaker promised to look into this.
- 4) Remainder of meeting: Continued discussion of position requests.

The Chair passed out detailed listings of courses and enrollments for all the departments with tenure track position requests. The listings are on the Globe in Excel.

A clarification from Prof. Lossowski: The studio art position requested is not envisioned as crossing over into Art History, but rather as being broader within the range of art production, especially into areas that will help make graduates immediately employable.

Continuing discussion of the heavy pressures on Biology and Math/Physics/CS:

--Forecasted increasing needs of MPS to supply courses for (1) the quantitative reasoning requirement, since Logic will now presumably be switched to the critical analysis bin, and (2) the statistics requirement recommended by the state for the Business major.

--Molecular and cellular biology, along with genetics, as a crucial, foundational part of any modern biology program—according to Prof. Collmer, the major/program will be “gutted” without it; needed to teach one of the 4 foundational 1xxL courses as well as other required courses and recommended/required for health sciences.

General point about hiring recommendations: Since not all deserving positions will be filled right away as tenure-track, we should also be considering which positions most need full-time replacements (with outside-of-classroom expectations like advising, committees) and which can manage with course-by-course part-time staffing, in the short term.

Business again: It's reported that Director Ellis expects one full time hire this year and one the following year. At least the first hire must hold the terminal (Doctorate) degree to get state approval. The initial staffing assumptions for the center are 3 f/t and 1 p/t.

There is general consensus that the business position is a foregone conclusion; EPC's job is to rank the other position requests.

Reiterating the requests still in question:

Education and Spanish—already approved; not in question.

--Biology—two: roughly as Genetics and within-cell-size biology; Animals in the ecosystem (including, desirably) invertebrates.

--Math/Physics –two: (a third CS is requested, but deferred with the intention of being able to define it better as complementing the skills hired in these two)

--Visual Arts:--one: the 2-d environment; preferably with contemporary skills/technologies and applied interests in addition to the classical drawing, painting, design needs.

--History:--one: flexible, but most desirable to cover the third of the globe comprising the Middle East and the former Soviet Union regions.

--Environmental--one: to cover the policy wing of the major.

Discussion—What's working ok right now? What needs new faculty to get back to the status quo? What needs new faculty to move into the future?

Environmental policy major is working, though patched together from many places through the college. Looking to the future, this should be developed.

Visual arts—need to recover status quo (only one tenured/track faculty in Studio Art now) but with redefinition in new request, can also move into the future—previously training was more oriented toward grad school; new position would allow offering more commercial applications, retain students we are now losing who want commercial design training.

History—Humanities faculty has gone from 15 to 9, though History still has 3 tenured/track. History is “stable” but the ancillary people who were supporting our small offerings around the Middle East (Malena—Religion, Dimitrova—Art History) are gone. Both Science and Religion have a gap now, lacking the Middle East perspective. Now Farnsworth's popular courses such as Women in Revolution, Russian women activists vs. American feminists are “lost” as well. The historians need more connections to remain viable and sustainable. History encompasses “all” the other fields—makes a good major/minor combo with others. “History is the glue.” Exit interviews show students unhappy with scheduling problems—being unable to get at the desired courses. Can History manage for the immediate future? Every time (since 1999) they have tried to hire at the Visiting Assistant level (e.g. sabbatical replacement) they've found essentially nobody available in Middle East; they all get other jobs. Although the bad economy might make a difference.

For next meeting: We are each to bring a list, annotated and ranked.

Adjourned at 10:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Sievers
Secretary, pro tem