

Educational Policy Committee—

April 7, 2011

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM

- Announcements—entrepreneurship week, Jeanne Goddard presentation, Erin Hunter visit, weekend events
- Minutes approved with minor edits
- Subcommittee reports:
 - Scientific Literacy-
 - Working on report for next week
 - Planning to endorse current requirements with some rationale
 - Surveyed comparison colleges, we are consistent with many catalogs
 - Jan week
 - Professor Easter presented a sample calendar
 - Students would be required to attend all sessions
 - Academic workshops would be developed by faculty and staff
 - Concern from student life—RA training would need to be moved back to week before
 - Discussion about move-in/check-in, the need for trained student leaders
 - Suggestion for student leaders to be trained Monday and Tuesday
 - One suggestion was to have the individual majors meet during the week. However, this would require near full faculty presence. Should this be optional? A member thought that a major's meeting each semester was required and that this requirement was stated in faculty manual. Several members are looking up the answer to this question.
 - Do majors hold meetings? Perhaps this is a larger survey question for comps
 - Will workshops be repeated? Suggestion for an academic class to repeat over 3 days
 - Career services/library can provide workshops
- Discuss-
 - A suggestion was made to include a section "Freshman/1st year experience" in catalog based on a conversation with a prospective and research into other college catalogs.
- Discuss—Provost Miller-Bernal's reports to faculty about capstone survey
 - Provost Miller-Bernal will post on Globe and send to faculty
 - They are currently a work in progress
 - Note that the discussion on comps is for fall 2011
 - Need to include how writing components being implemented

- We should stress the independent nature of the work
- Might be a good idea to go to a focus group to get at fine details, perhaps division meetings
- Discuss—special meeting regarding Gen Ed
 - How much material do we present?
 - Yes, helpful from a student's perspective
 - General dislike for phrase “intellectual engagement” in first year description
 - **Assignment for next week first year title
 - Put years of implementation
 - Faculty participation—WLLS 101, Senior themed seminar, January mini term, yearly themed seminars—question about faculty buy-in
 - May special meeting for faculty vote for catalog inclusion
 - Discuss within divisions
- Discussion of transfer students' expectations
 - What in these courses is a Wells degree? Be clear with evaluation of transfer transcripts—clear learning objectives for curriculum will help
 - Assessment of gen ed—Who? EPC?
- Some faculty are already doing themed seminars, so perhaps new courses do not have to be developed
 - Can themed seminars double-count for majors?
 - How to specify breadth of study more clearly/strongly
- Homework for the next EPC meeting
 - Discuss article about unpaid internships
 - Discuss potential questions from faculty about gen ed proposal
 - Bring suggestions for a fuller title for the first year, “Meaningful Lives”

Meeting adjourned at 10:48am

Respectfully Submitted,

Siouxie Easter