

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
August 30, 2011

Present: Professors CJ Koepp, Ted Lossowski, Sally Sievers, Susan Tabrizi; and Provost Cindy Speaker (chair)

The meeting began at 9:33 a.m.

1. Update on student membership

The chair reported that the student rep position for the committee is on the ballot for the upcoming election and will be named on September 19th. Members were encouraged to talk with students who they think would be good for the committee. The chair will talk to the previous student rep about suggestions he has.

2. Establish minute-taking duties

Members signed up for minute-taking responsibilities. The schedule is as follows:

Aug 30	Cindy
Sept 6	Susan
Sept 13	CJ
Sept 20	Sally
Sept 27	Sally
Oct 4	Ted
Oct 11	No meeting (fall break)
Oct 18	CJ
Oct 25	Student Rep
Nov 1	Ted
Nov 8	(Committee most likely not meeting)
Nov 15	Cindy
Nov 22	Susan
Dec 6	Student Rep

3. Elect Faculty Rep to the Board of Trustees

CJ graciously offered to serve and was elected to be the committee's representative to the Board of Trustees. Susan who expressed interest in the position in the future will work with CJ so she is aware of all that is involved.

4. Develop schedule for reviewing position requests

Cindy will send a reminder to the faculty to resend their position requests electronically to her by the end of the week. Faculty reps will remind their colleagues. The committee will begin its

deliberations at its meeting next week. A Globe group will be established for easy access to the materials. In May the Board approved searches for three positions. Question was raised as to whether that number would be increased given the gift the business center received, part of which is to support a faculty position. The chair responded that that was unlikely given current enrollment numbers.

5. Develop Sustainable Community (SC) work plan

The committee began with a review of the work last year's EPC identified as needing to be done.

a. Talking with Collegiate at the beginning of the semester to explain the new program in depth – Cindy will talk with the collegiate president to arrange. Faculty reps shared the concerns they have heard from members in their divisions. In particular, they indicated that faculty are worried about course coverage – both for courses in the new curriculum (such as lifetime wellness and the first-year seminars that need to be rostered in the spring) and for courses in their own majors—and the potential watering down of courses. Cindy noted that the Curriculum Committee will be doing a lot of work related to SC this fall and will need to be sure we have sufficient and appropriate course offerings.

b. Determining which particular days in the latter part of the spring semester, 2012, will be Celebrate Scholarship and Engagement Days (and which fields will have students present on each day) in time for faculty to adjust their spring semester syllabi – In discussing the concept of the days, the committee considered the pros and the cons of having days by division and the concerns that students will not attend any of the activities. Since one of the days is to be for Activism Symposium, members discussed how other themes (such as environmental sustainability), a problem-based approach, or connecting to other activities (such as the Beckman Lecture or a common reading program) could be utilized. Other questions that the group considered included: What can bring groups together? What can be scheduled against one another? What's reasonable to expect from student presentations? Faculty reps were asked to talk with their colleagues about these issues, get ideas, and think about what we should do.

6. Next Meeting

The committee will meet next Tuesday 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will begin with continuing the discussion of the Celebrate Scholarship and Engagement Days and move to discussion of position requests.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College