

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
September 30, 2009

Present: Professors Amy Godert, CJ Koepp, Ted Lossowski, and Susan Tabrizi ; Student Representative Kelley O'Keefe '10; Dean Leslie Miller-Bernal; and Associate Dean Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 9:35am.

1. Minutes from the September 23, 2009 Meeting

After review, minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Review of the Revised, Revised Political Science Major Proposal

Susan distributed a revised proposal for the Committee's consideration. The revision takes into account the concerns that were discussed at last week's meeting.

Major changes in the proposal include the elimination of POLS 165 course and requirement of one (rather than two) courses in each of the four subfields. With such, the program has much more flexibility for students and for faculty. Faculty rotations should now be able to accommodate special topics courses and involvement in WLLS 101.

Issues discussed during the Committee's review included the availability of philosophy courses within the major and the possible hidden prerequisites for courses in the related disciplines category.

Given the draft as presented, the Committee made the following suggestions and corrections:

- At least 6 courses in the major must be at the 300-level or above (not 4 as noted)
- POLS 200 recommended to be changed to a 1XX course level given the elimination of POLS 165.
- To include in the titles for sections II-V of the required courses the phrase "the subfield of" in order to clarify for students what the four subfields of political science are.
- Correction in section V to indicate one course required (not 2 as noted)
- Include in section VI options of PHIL 240 Ethics and PHIL 310 Ethics, Law, and Social Policy

The proposed major should go back to the Social Sciences Division for approval.

The Committee briefly discussed issues related to the minor and the changes that will need to occur in it. In particular, the Committee considered the current restriction in the minor that prohibits students from majoring in international studies to minor in political science. It was the consensus of the group that such a restriction no longer seems appropriate. The Committee discussed the current policies regarding the amount of overlap allowed between majors and minors as well as the restrictions regarding in which fields students can minor. Consideration of concerns recently expressed by a student to EPC as well as Dean Koester's response occurred. Process issues for making changes to the minor were reviewed. Changes should go from the division to the Curriculum Committee.

Motion made and seconded to approve the latest version of the political science major proposal with today's recommendations pending approval of the Social Sciences Division. Motion approved.

3. Subcommittee Updates

A. Physical Education – Cindy reported that the subcommittee has met twice. Trish George was invited to the group's last meeting to discuss the swim requirement. Members have also been looking at our comparison schools and their requirements in PE (many have no requirements). The subcommittee will be meeting next on Friday, October 9th and will be discussing learning objectives for a PE requirement.

B. Experiential Learning – Amy reported that the subcommittee has met twice. Their third meeting is today. In their first meeting they brainstormed about issues with the current requirements – what counts, the separation of OCS from other experiential learning opportunities, etc. In their second, they discussed goals and objectives. Amy met with Cindy regarding assessment. The subcommittee has found it difficult to find similar programs at other institutions. Often experiential learning is solely considered for adult learning and the credit for prior learning. The focus of their meeting today will be on articulating outcomes.

C. Distribution across the Divisions – Ted reported that they are having their third meeting today. Group members have experienced some meeting conflicts in the past few weeks. The subcommittee has lots of questions – how does Wells define diversity? Is it necessary for women's scholarship to be considered across the board? Or can it be touched on in some courses? In today's meeting, each member will be reporting on their examination of their division's offerings and the five institutional goals. They won't be meeting next given the Arts Division meeting.

D. Information Literacy and Oral Communication – Susan reported that they have had three meetings. Their fourth will be on Monday. They have examined learning objectives and are drafting outcomes to direct their evaluation of the draft proposals that they have regarding how to integrate information literacy into the curriculum. They are also working on a draft definition of oral communication. They hope to be on target for the October 28 deadline date for having their proposal come to EPC.

Kelley will be joining the Distribution across the Divisions subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,
Associate Dean Speaker