

EPC Minutes 11/29/11

EPC Members Present: Provost and Dean of the College, Cindy Speaker; Professors Sally Sievers, CJ Koepp, Ted Lossowski, Susan Tabrizi

1. Approval of minutes from 11/15.
2. Proposed elimination of American Studies major. The major is proposed to be eliminated by core faculty, Linda Lohn and Michael Groth, due to the fact that American Studies has not had many majors in recent years and that the program itself is difficult to be sustained. This has been discussed in the humanities division. The introduction of the Film and Media Studies major has been understood as “replacement” for American Studies, not entirely in substantive terms per se, but in terms of interdisciplinary major offered with the resources of the College in mind. Certain courses, such as AMST 310 The Decade, will remain in the course offerings. The course designation will change to History. The suggestion was made that cross-listing courses might be revisited now that electronic registration and the possible elimination of printed catalogs is likely. EPC voted unanimously to support the elimination of the American Studies major.
3. Discussion of Academic Program goals. A question was raised about the nature of these goals and institutional goals that are related. Are these marketing materials, actual definitions of what we do, what is the relationship between those ideas, etc? Questions were raised regarding the extent to which our practice reflects our mission statement. What are our institutional goals? What kind of academic experience do we want our students to have? There are elements of developmental and substantive experience that we strive for. This is a conversation that the committee agrees will be ongoing and complex. Next steps might be to reinvigorate faculty conversation about what our institutional academic program goals are. Members of EPC are encouraged to return to their divisions to inquire about the nature of the academic experience that faculty members would like to see the students have. From this information EPC can begin the process of crafting academic program goals that reflect that vision.
4. Provost Speaker will draft an announcement to be delivered at the December faculty meeting for the committee to review next week.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tabrizi