

Educational Policy Committee
November 3, 2010

Present: Professors Siouxsie Easter, CJ Koepp, Ernie Olson, Tom Stiadle; Provost Leslie Miller-Bernal (chair); and Associate Provost Cindy Speaker.

The meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

1. Announcements:

- a) Leslie requested that we change the agenda and turn our attention to the Business and Entrepreneurship Major Proposal (recently approved at the Social Sciences Division meeting). Copies of the proposal were distributed at this time to members of EPC.
- b) Leslie noted that she had recently sent to EPC a rough draft of an EPC Report to be presented at the next faculty meeting (in response to a faculty request for such a report from EPC to the November faculty meeting). Leslie requested that we send any suggestions and corrections to her to aid in her final version of the report.
- c) Leslie reminded us of EPC's scheduled open meeting for December 7, Tuesday, at 4:45 p.m., in the AER

2. Minutes for the October 27 EPC meeting were approved with minor corrections.

3. Review of the proposed Business and Entrepreneurship Major:

Leslie began discussion by noting that the proposal had just been approved, with some suggestions, at the Social Sciences Division meeting of October 26, 2010 and had gone through 26 iterations. She also emphasized the importance of putting this proposal forward to the November faculty meeting. It was also noted that the proposal would be discussed by the Curriculum Committee on November 4.

We spent some time carefully reading the proposal.

We began discussion with a question about the "innovation" focus of the proposal in relation to an apparent interest in admissions, in particular, of developing something in line with other colleges.

Question: how traditional, creative, distinct, and/or innovative should the major be? It was stated that the current proposal is a compromise proposal somewhere in the middle.

Question: How many new courses are included (our concern for staffing needs). This question was not clearly visible in the proposal.

Question: Is the requirement of 14 courses typical for majors at Wells? There was the sense that this requirement of 14 is somewhere in the middle in comparison to current majors at Wells.

Question: Why use of the category of “Plus” - maybe another word would be better? This question will apparently be asked at the Curriculum Committee meeting.

Question: What is the nature of the Business 302: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management course? Was this course discussed at the Social Sciences Division meeting? The answer to the last question -- not with any great detail – left us with further unanswered questions about the proposed course.

Question: Why inclusion of Business 302 and not Business 250? And why Economics 101 and 102 and not Business 250?

One answer is that the proposed set of courses offers a good balance of applied business and theory courses.

There was some further discussion of the academic relation between business and economics with the argument that economics and business make a “natural” pairing.

There was some discussion of two new courses – Business 111: Personal Finance and Business 250: Innovation: Creative Problem Solving—and the proposed Business and Entrepreneurship Minor. A few, small editing changes were suggested for the minor.

Action: EPC approved the B. and E. major and minor proposals with some small editorial suggestions.

Noted: EPC would like to know the number of new courses and new faculty/staff needed for the major and minor.

Noted: EPC has some concern in regard to the accuracy and consistency of the descriptions of the major and its courses as written for the Globe and the catalog (while acknowledging that there are renewed efforts to improve descriptions as found across the curriculum for all majors and minors).

Meeting was adjourned 10: 42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Olson
Social Sciences Rep. to the EPC