

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
September 13, 2011

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

The meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

1. The minutes of September 6, 2011 were approved as submitted.

2. Continuation of SC work:

a. Update on student representative. The second round of elections is currently underway and we should have a student member by the end of this week.

b. On September 20th at 7:00p.m. Provost Speaker will meet with Rep Council to talk about the new SC curriculum so that student reps will be knowledgeable about the changes that will be in place for the Class of 2015 and can inform their classmates. Other EPC members are welcome to join her.

c. Feedback from divisions on Celebrate Scholarship and Engagement Days

We discussed responses (or not) from division members to EPC queries:

General comment: EPC reps are not getting much response from faculty members, beyond concerns about workload, making sure current courses get offered, etc. How to proceed? Perhaps this issue will get some attention at the various division meetings.

- Social Sciences Division made suggesting such as working from established themes/activities such as Earth Day, Women's History, Civil Rights and Liberties in addition to Activism Symposium
- Humanities faculty members have not yet responded to email query about these days. Perhaps a discussion can happen at upcoming Division meeting.
- Arts Division is planning to contribute two SC courses to the new curriculum in Spring 2012. Also, some support expressed for performances by both students and faculty during these special days.
- Natural and Mathematical Sciences faculty have expressed concern about workloads and logistics. They are wondering what support will exist for faculty involved, especially if the goal is to link these days with larger themes or events such as Earth Day, Beckman Lectures, etc. That will

require much work, planning, and coordination. They are trying to imagine how to fit student work into these events.

Other comments: Faculty voted on setting aside five days to celebrate scholarship and engagement. We need to remind folks that these days are not only for seniors, but any student independent work. Also, if these days are intended particularly to showcase student work, do we also want competing lectures and presentations by guests and faculty?

EPC imagined this proposal to be flexible, providing a structure or a framework like an umbrella—not a dictate.

It was meant to respond to our changing Gen Ed curriculum, one that would provide a stronger connection to a student's development over four years. It was not bound by specifics and details. Rather, faculty members should think of this proposal as an evolving pilot program (this Spring and next year) that will need to be assessed.

We will want to know if it works. How to evaluate it? What students think of it?

There are also practical concrete space issues: What are the spaces we can utilize for student presentations, poster sessions, artistic displays, and demonstrations? How well will the current physical plant support these activities? What changes might need to happen

3. We also discussed Position requests and the criteria for ranking them.

The Faculty manual stipulates that EPC and Dean's council makes recommendations, and the president is consulted. We do not expect that more than three positions will be approved to search this year.

The Spanish line (converting from visiting to tenure-track) was already approved by the BOT so will go ahead –apart from any additional searches. The education line was similarly approved last Spring, but that area may wish to hold off on a national search for another year because they are redesigning some central features of their program.

We briefly went through the position requests and started to define the criteria that should guide and inform our recommendations, such as, issues of stability in major or division, how many faculty currently in an area, how easily filled by adjuncts or not, etc. More of these criteria will be laid out next week.

4. Next Meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J Koepp, Secretary pro tem