

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

September 15, 2010

Present: Professors Siouxsie Easter, CJ Koepp, Ernie Olson; Student Representative Alex Schloop '12; Provost Leslie Miller-Bernal (chair); and Associate Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

1. Minutes of the Sept. 8, EPC meeting were approved without additions or corrections.

2. EPC Membership Discussion:

Discussion of problems/challenges of getting a NMS EPC member to replace vacancy but it was noted that the Committee on Committees is working on this problem. The question was raised whether two members of the same division could serve at the same time on EPC. This question was followed by the thought that we need a MNS perspective for full faculty representation.

3. EPC representatives Chosen:

C.J. Koepp is the new EPC representative to the Academic Affairs Committee for the Wells College Board of Trustees

Siouxsie Easter is the new EPC representative for the Wells College Strategic Planning Committee.

4. Continuation of Sept. 8 Discussion of proposed revisions to the general education curriculum.

Provost Leslie Miller-Bernal proposed that we discuss whether or not to endorse general education recommendations set forth in each of the subcommittee reports from last semester (see April 29 minutes (on the Globe) of the EPC open meeting with faculty).

The Writing Requirement:

Recommended: WLLS 101, writing attentive courses (2) (from within the student's major or not) and the spacing of these three course over the student's career at Wells (see open meeting minutes of April 29, 2009 for faculty responses).

We noted that the proposed model encourages greater attention to writing across the curriculum. Such attention is meant to be the responsibility of all faculty members, and, therefore, should NOT be confined to any particular group of faculty. EPC's assumption is that potential writing attentive courses would be reviewed and approved through the Curriculum Committee.

EPC voted support and endorsement for these recommendations.

Critical Analysis and Reasoning Requirement (CAR) (again, see summary of April 29, 2009):

Recommended: The subcommittee made a number of recommendations, including a separation into two domains: CAR and QR, with one course required from each domain.

EPC discussed the challenges of staffing and the need for a range of courses across majors for the CAR. It was suggested that CAR courses could include logic, a range of social science courses, certain history

courses, and so forth. This prompted a question about the length to which this inclusion could be stretched.

It was emphasized that a KEY piece is the classroom application of real world problems. It was stated that a goal would be to set up CAR attentive courses (with attendant clever iconic designation in the Wells College catalog).

Quantitative Reasoning:

Additional EPC recommendation: Members of EPC gave strong support to the idea of including a business course on PERSONAL FINANCE -- as well as math, statistics, and accounting courses. It was suggested that it might be useful to analyze this year's incoming class to see how many would test out of this requirement (see SAT score of 600 OR AP score of 3 or higher in calculus or statistics). It was suggested that there needs to be a concern for viability and sustainability of faculty staffing for additional math, statistics, business, personal finance, or accounting courses.

The committee endorsed the proposed recommendations for CAR and QR.

Modern Languages:

Recommended: Two courses at the college level in a single modern language other than English (it was noted that the Wells College catalog currently allows for ASL and other substitutions) OR placement through examination at the 200 level.

The committee spent some time discussing the best way to incorporate the study of modern languages into the Wells liberal arts educational experience, especially given the recent cuts of ML faculty.

The committee noted the importance of the cultural, social, and historical context of language learning. Along with this, the committee also emphasized the importance of Study Abroad, and cultural immersion experiences.

The committee endorsed the proposed recommendations for ML.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Olson
Fac. Rep. for the Soc. Sciences Div.