

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
January 30, 2013

Present: Professors Linda Lohn, Ted Lossowski, Tom Stiadle, Susan Tabrizi; Student Representative Jeremiah Miller '14; and Provost Cindy Speaker (chair)

The meeting began at 10:30am.

1. Minutes from December 5, 2012 meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

2. A sign-up sheet for minute-taking responsibilities was circulated. Schedule is as follows:

Jan 30 Cindy
Feb 6 Jeremiah
Feb 13 Jeremiah
Feb 20 Ted
Feb 27 Tom
Mar 6 Susan
Mar 13 No Meeting (Spring Break)
Mar 20 Cindy
Mar 27 Ted
Apr 3 Tom
Apr 10 No Meeting (CS&E day)
Apr 17 Susan
Apr 24 Linda
May 1 Linda

3. Discussion of joint meeting with Curriculum Committee

The Committee discussed last week's joint meeting with the Curriculum Committee. Observations included

- Curriculum Committee's frustration given the difficult task they were given
- Presence of retrenchment rather than forward movement regarding implementation of the new curriculum
- Faculty entrenchment in the division structure and concerns only for their program enrollments
- Abdication by the sciences
- Concerns regarding resources
- Few faculty are willing to adapt their courses
- Concerns about the ability to develop and roster the third-year seminar, and especially its service-learning component, and the capstone seminar and a desire to postpone both
- Misunderstanding as to what writing attentive is
- The need to clearly articulate the goals for the CML and LGI courses

The Provost expressed concern that if the faculty cannot implement its own curriculum, how will Wells move forward and do new things (e.g., new programs, increased use of technology, effective partnerships, etc.).

The following motion was made and seconded:

To suspend implementation of *Sustainable Community* junior and senior seminars until such time as EPC determines there has been enough professional development and resource acquisition that they may succeed.

Discussion considered what the resources issues include, what happens for student instead (requirements – the 5cr -- would be waived). Motion carried by vote of 5 in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

The committee noted a practical piece that for some that seemed obvious was that the junior year seminar is likely to be in the major. This led to a discussion of breadth and expertise, what does 300-level mean, and the difference between junior-level and junior-year. Decoupling service learning from the seminar was a potential solution. It was noted too that the committee needs to discuss what the thesis is in the majors in order to consider what the capstone of the general education should be. It was noted that some majors (e.g., BCS, Art History) have abandoned the thesis.

The Committee recognized additional items from the meeting with Curriculum Committee included how to include the arts more in the new curriculum and defining the first two year seminars to gather participation.

Ultimately we need to remember the students' education and why they are doing this.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33am.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College