

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
March 21, 2016

Present: Professors Jeanne Goddard, Niamh O'Leary (Chair), Susan Wansor; Student Representative Chris Castro '16; Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 2:33 p.m.

1. Minutes from March 7, 2016 were approved. The Provost asked that minute takers get approved minutes to Laurie in a timely manner so that she does not have to take the time to track them down.
2. The Provost distributed copies of the position requests received by the due date of March 15th -- Assistant Professor of Art History, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance (with conversion possibility), Visiting Assistant Professor of English (with conversion possibility), Assistant Professor of History, Visiting Lecturer of Spanish, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Visiting Lecturer of Mathematics, and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. Members should review them for the next meeting. The Committee is still waiting for the Curriculum Committee's work on academic prioritization to be completed as it will affect its recommendations.
3. The Committee discussed the 60-hour residency requirement including feedback received from the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid as to its potential influence on the recruitment of transfer students. The Committee decided to leave the requirement as is.
4. The Committee discussed the current policy on repeating courses, reviewed the summary of feedback the Chair received, and outlined the issues that any changes to the policy should consider. The Committee was in agreement that students should be able to repeat courses for which they earn grades below a C-. This would be consistent with our current transfer of credit policy. While there are likely to be financial aid implications involved for students in repeating courses, the policy itself does not need to outline these. It will be important, however, that the process for registering for repeating includes informing the students of the implications. The Committee agreed that all grades for repeated courses should show on the transcript but that only the most recent grade be used for GPA calculations (regardless of whether it is higher or not) and credit will be awarded only once. As for whether or not to allow students to repeat a letter-graded course with a Pass/Fail option, after much discussion, it was agreed not to put any restrictions on doing so. It was also agreed that the policy should limit students to repeating course only at Wells and not other institutions. As to how many times a course can be repeated, the Committee agreed to one. One issue the Committee was unable to agree upon was the number of courses that can be repeated in any one semester. Discussion to continue at the Committee's next meeting.
5. The Chair indicated that she is pulling together all the feedback received regarding the draft general education curriculum. The student representative will confirm the date of the next student assembly as the proposal will be an agenda item. The Provost will remind students via email to provide feedback and the opportunity to do so at that assembly meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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