

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
August 28, 2014

Present: Professors Linda Lohn, Lauren O'Neil, Susan Wansor; Student Representative Leslie Green '17;
and Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 3:47 p.m.

1. Election of Chair – It was agreed that Linda Lohn would be the Committee Chair this year.
2. Committee Listserv – The Provost will check with IT about updating the committee's listserv.
3. Minute-taking Assignments – Committee members signed up to take minutes throughout the semester as follows:

Aug	28	Cindy
Sept	4	Susan
	11	Lauren
	18	Leslie
	25	Cindy
Oct	2	Susan
	9	Leslie
	16	Lauren
	23	Cindy
	30	Cindy
Nov	6	Susan
	13	Leslie
	20	Lauren
Dec	4	Cindy

4. Discussion of agenda items for the semester – The Committee discussed the following issues :

- Regarding the Sustainable Community (SC), curriculum what is the purview of EPC and what the purview of the Curriculum Committee
- Policies needed related to the SC curriculum (e.g., double dipping)
- Assessment
 - Especially in the SC curriculum. Is it worth assessing the first two years of the curriculum without a functioning four-year plan? Need to have common goals for LGI and CML as we do for SC 101 (This latter is EPC's job). It would be helpful to take a team approach to all these pieces in SC and have a lead faculty member for each.
 - What support do faculty need to do assessment of SC curriculum?
 - Students do not understand why courses don't always count toward SC requirements.
- How courses get designated to different curricular categories (request was made to take this to Curriculum Committee)

- Junior and senior level holes in SC
 - Service learning issues including worry about student buy in. Can we support service learning on campus? No agreement on campus as to what service learning is. Should they be attached to or detached from the majors? Being detached means new courses. With service-learning sites, the reputation of the faculty and relationships with the outside world are at stake.
 - Number of faculty available to teach
 - Courses outside of major or minor are difficult because of course level (prerequisites) as well as double dipping
 - Could there be ethics courses in the major given that focus of the junior themed seminar?
 - Could 1 of the 2 experiential learning requirements somehow connect here? Could service learning fit someplace else.
- Middle States feedback that we have too many specialized courses
- We can't afford any new courses in the curriculum
- Consideration of how students register for SC curriculum courses – students feeling like they do not have sufficient prerequisites for LGI and feel that they are penalized then.
- The structures of the majors are problematic especially with the odd two-year rotations that were designed to address the small enrollments in upper-level courses.
- We need to ask majors to justify their goals and revise if necessary.

5. Election of representative to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees -- It was agreed that Lauren O'Neil would be the EPC member on Academic Affairs.

6. Agenda for the next meeting will be discussion of course levels.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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