

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
September 29, 2015

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

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes – Minutes from September 23, 2015 approved as corrected.
2. Review of draft notice of motion on double degrees and majors – The Committee reviewed the draft that had been distributed via email. It was agreed to take the notice to the October faculty meeting.
3. Report on division meetings – Faculty members provided the Committee with updates from their division meetings last week. All three divisions expressed concerns regarding the general education curriculum. These included feeling excluded from the offerings, students not getting sufficient breadth in the liberal arts and sciences, the suspension of the third and fourth years components and the unlikely consensus about what to do with them, and staffing including whether there should be a coordinator for the program.
4. Position requests – The Committee discussed what to do with the requests received for Art History and Dance faculty lines. It was agreed that at this time the Committee was not in a position to address the requests. The Committee felt that it needed the results of academic prioritization from Curriculum Committee to move forward on evaluating any position requests. The Committee Chair will contact the Arts & Humanities Division Chair to inform her of this. The Committee revisited whether there should be a deadline for position requests – perhaps one for each semester.
5. General Education curriculum – The Committee discussed how we move forward in dealing with Sustainable Community. Should we use the opportunity that the new tag line provides us as a chance to redesign the general education curriculum (curiosity as it connects to breadth and graduating prepared related to career services). Concerns regarding staffing, assessment, and accreditation were discussed as was how many students do not know what the meaning of certain components of the curriculum are (e.g., CML and LGI). Committee members should think of how to proceed.
6. Homework for next meeting is to read handouts on assessment and the new Middle States standards. Those tasked with reviewing assessment reports should get their feedback sheets to Professor O'Leary.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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