

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
November 3, 2015

Present: Professors Jeanne Goddard, Niamh O'Leary (Chair), Susan Wansor; Student Representative Chris Castro '16; Provost Cindy Speaker; and Guests Nicole Pellegrino (Registrar and Director of Academic Advising and Success) and Alicin Welsh (Director of Experiential Learning and Career Services)

The meeting began at 12:02 p.m.

1. Minutes from October 27, 2015 approved.

2. The Chair thanked the guests for attending and opened the floor to discussion on the draft general education curriculum. Comments, questions, etc. included:

- WLLS 100, 101, and 102
 - Return to the WLLS designator seen as positive
 - WLLS 100, 101, and 102 are to be first semester courses – concerns regarding the number of required courses in the first semester
 - WLLS 102 would have a shared common syllabus; 101 would continue as topical but with common learning goals
 - Concerns that WLLS 102 would be only 1 credit, especially given the importance of writing skills for employers
- With experiential learning, recognition of the importance of sharing the experience with the campus community was made and discussion on how to do that for the study abroad experiences
- For the creative expression requirement, is it the production of creative expression or the exposure to it (aesthetic awareness) that is the learning objective? Would there be a specific list of courses that would fulfill the requirement? Would need to make clear that partial credit courses would need to total 3 semester hours to fulfill requirement.
- It would be helpful to have different designators for courses that fill different requirements
- Courses will only be allowed to count in one category of the general education curriculum – this ensures breadth.
- Concerns regarding the title of “The Human Experience” given the courses in the category and why this category would require two courses. Suggestion made to reduce the number to one.
- Concerns expressed regarding HUM designated courses
- Need to clearly delineate the courses in categories 7 (Diversity & Justice) and 8 (Social Systems). It is important to be super clear to students of what counts where. If personal finance is a required course, it would be important to note that business courses with the exception of that one course. Suggestion made to make personal finance a WLLS course rather than a business course
- Suggestion to add MATH 112 to quantitative reasoning category
- Suggestion to make it clear in the Natural World category that courses are a lab science
- Regarding Global Languages and Cultures, how would prior experience with a high school language fit here? What’s the goal of the category? Students do not learn a language in two semesters. Some expressed preference for a culture class that may or may not include language instruction. Importance of students learning something about people of other cultures. Others expressed the value of two-semester language instruction. Are we offering the right options for learning languages in today’s world (considering global businesses)

- Regarding physical wellness, the question was raised as to why we teach PE. Healthy mind/healthy body. How do holistic health courses fit in this category if at all? What is the goal of the category – activity or bodily-kinesthetic intelligence? If about activity, requirement should be on counts rather than credits given the variability of courses.
- Need to articulate learning goals for the Making the Most of Your Wells Education. The importance of transferable skills and workplace readiness. If WLLS 123 is really about leadership, the course title should indicate that. Need expressed for a public speaking course and a course for those planning on graduate school. A suggestion was made to repackage the CS 10X courses to address technological competence.
- Other concerns expressed including those on staffing, the constraint to take courses at a certain time (though admittedly easier in the first and last years), and title for the curriculum given the breadth of the curriculum.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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