

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
January 29, 2014

Present: Professors Linda Lohn (chair), Ted Lossowski, Lauren O'Neil, Susan Tabrizi; and Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 10:33 a.m.

1. Minutes from January 22, 2014 approved as corrected.
2. The Committee Chair provided an update on Advisory's response to the Committee's action on position requests.
3. The Committee returned to discussion of the new course schedule. Discussion of potential conflicts for courses in NMS took place. Members shared concerns they have heard that the changes would be put in place for next year. Members of the Committee agreed that there is no reason to delay implementation. Additionally members agreed that if the College is student centered we must reduce the conflicts students incur as a result of the current schedule. Enforcement of a course schedule that fully utilizes available class periods and reduces the number of courses offered at any one time will be the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee. Additional time periods were added to the draft. The Chair will circulate the updated electronic copy. The Provost will take the draft to Curriculum Committee for discussion. The Committee discussed briefly issues of workload related to the conflicts that the current schedule creates and the necessity for independent studies. The observation was made that course conflicts and difficulty in scheduling should have faculty consider the structure of their programs.
4. In considering the Committee's agenda for the semester, it was requested that the Committee consider a policy of having a minimum acceptable grade in required courses within the major. Concerns were expressed that students progress in a major without having a solid foundation. Related to this would be the repeat policy which would need to be changed if such a policy came into effect. The question was asked as to how many times a student would be able to repeat a course. ASA is considering these issues as well. The Committee needs to discuss what should constitute a major at Wells and the role of the current senior thesis. The SC curriculum is also an agenda item.
5. The Committee's homework assignment for next week is to think about what constitutes a major. Bring comments and questions on the general issue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

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