

EPC Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2012

Committee members in attendance: Dr. Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College; Professors Lohn, Lossowski, Stiadle and Tabrizi; Jeremiah Miller, Student Representative.

The meeting began at 10:30am

Meeting minutes from May 9 were approved without objection; 1 committee member abstained

Meeting minutes from September 12 were approved

The meeting was focused on the topic of returning to a conversation about institutional and academic program goals.

1. A question was asked regarding why the committee was reviewing the goals. Discussion indicated that work on curriculum over the past few years had reviewed goals and suggested possible revision. In addition, sentiments at an EPC hosted open meeting of the faculty held in 2011 indicated interest in attaching dual functions to any revision centered on improving the clarity and accessibility of any college wide goals to internal and external audiences. In addition, the goals would provide an improved guide for ongoing program assessment. A revision would also provide students with a way to understand the general curricular program. It was suggested that a revised set of goals could be used to articulate a vision for the College.
2. A question was raised regarding why a new curriculum was seen as necessary. The suggestion was made that there was a need seen for a developmental approach and a meaningful/purposeful design. This led to the suggestion that EPC consider asserting a change to the faculty manual that would require a supermajority vote for any major curriculum change. A discussion followed regarding whether curriculum change constitutes “major change” with some members indicating yes. An assertion was made that, ideally, curriculum change would be derived from a clearly articulated statement of goals and comprehensive vision.
3. A discussion of goals for the catalog involved the issue of whether “academic program goals” was a suitable conceptualization (is it too narrow?) or whether the idea of “educational goals” that encompass the entire Wells experience is a broader and more useful perspective. The point was made that EPC had previously been moving toward a more comprehensive set of goals and this discussion reiterated that rationale.
4. The questions of whether a set of goals should offer distinction for Wells and whether the work of EPC should be to revise the current goals or create something new resulted in the notion that members would be tasked with comparing what the current catalog copy says with the listings created by EPC members in the Spring 2011 term to determine what concepts have been reiterated and what is new. This comparison and continued discussion regarding the nature of goals revision (including the idea that goals could be revised or completely reconceptualized) would be the topic for the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:28.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tabrizi