

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
February 29, 2016

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

Call to order: 1:50PM

1. Minutes of February 22, 2016 were approved as corrected. Chair O'Leary will send additional details concerning the Assessment Workshop (W 2/17/16) to be included in the record for future reference.

2. Revision of Full-Time Faculty Position Request Form.

Confirming the format and accessibility, the decision was to post a Word document that can be filled in electronically and then printed for signatures or signed electronically. The form is now posted on the Globe; requests due March 15.

Discussion: If a department has early confirmation of a pending retirement, will EPC accept a position request in advance of the September 15 deadline of the candidate's final year, to facilitate an effective search? Instead, faculty requesting appointments may stipulate that the request is for a visiting position with option to convert to tenure-track, or, if rejected by Board of trustees at October meeting, may resubmit the request at the January 15 deadline (for February Board meeting). Perhaps there should be some mechanism for immediate feedback.

3. Review of Provost's Forum on the Draft General Education Curriculum (W2/24/16).

Good turnout, lots of interest and lively discussion, general support for the "big picture" vision and layout of the document. Notes from the forum are posted on the Globe/EPC page, and the comment period runs through March 9 (though feedback will be accepted at any time). Student rep Chris Castro presented the plan at Student Assembly on Thursday February 26, and is compiling feedback from students. The Provost solicited student feedback as well. EPC representative(s) will attend the next Student Assembly to provide information as needed and to answer questions. By end of March EPC will revisit the draft with consideration of feedback received.

4. Strategic Plan/Focus on Academic Programs.

The campus wide Strategic Plan Committee is looking to fill the second column on this page of the Plan: "Persons" (standing committees or others) who will undertake each specified Action Step. The responsible party in each case will need to take the initiative, implement the stated goals, and conduct assessment. The committee examined the five strategies listed under Focus on Academic Programs.

Curriculum Development:

1. "Redefine...liberal arts and sciences..."	EPC
2. "...curricular development [for] breadth	EPC
3. New programs	Curriculum C'tee
4. Existing programs	Curriculum C'tee
5. "Integration of campus values..."	EPC

Faculty Support:

1. "...diversify faculty recruitment and retention"	Advisory C'tee
2. "Create a faculty development program"	Workshops & info sessions: Provost, IT, other. EPC?*
3. "...equity and workload"	Advisory C'tee

* EPC noted here that although many good sessions are happening, there is no single coordinator/overseer in this area, and so far no assessment.

Teaching Technology:

1. "partnership between Fac Ed Tech Coordinator and IT...to meet the needs of faculty"	IT and Fac Ed Tech Coordinator
2. "support and training of faculty...integration of technology"	Faculty Development Coordinator, IT, Curriculum C'tee
3. "Pilot hybrid and online course[s]"	Tie in with Academic Boot Camp

Relationships with Other Institutions:

1. "Expand and improve existing relationships"	Provost oversight with faculty#
2. "Explore additional partnerships"	Provost oversight with faculty, Experiential Learning, Career Svcs

EPC noted here that articulation agreements exist within the Education program but that there is no single coordinator.

Connect Academics to Professions and Outcomes:

1. "...bring together academics and professional careers"	Experiential Learning, Career Svcs with faculty, Provost
2. "...alumni to inform students [for] success"	Alumni Office with Experiential Learning, Career Svcs, faculty

Chair O'Leary noted that Wednesday, March 9 is the regular faculty meeting; if we want to propose changes to the Faculty Manual we will need to have a notice of motion by then.

Adjournment: 2:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Goddard, Secretary pro tem