

Educational Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes 2/19/14

Committee Members in Attendance: Dr. Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College; Professor Linda Lohn, committee chair; Professors Lauren O'Neil, Susan Tabrizi and Ted Lossowski; Student representative Shane Puskar.

Minutes of the 2/12/14 meeting were approved.

1. Discussion of questions posed to EPC regarding the distinction between BA and BS degree. Does the faculty manual need to state how many liberal arts credits are required for the BA (90) and BS degree (60) (it currently does not denote the number for the BA)? Does NY specify which fields can award BS degrees? Provost reported that degree distinction between BA and BS not is specific about majors, it is instead about programs, therefore, the distinction hinges on the minimum proportion of content related to the liberal arts with the BA requiring more credits in the liberal arts. The committee agrees that it is not desirable to add that level of specificity to the faculty manual as the NYS requirements set a minimum and we are likely to exceed those requirements.
2. Discussion of the new schedule draft. Curriculum Committee noticed a conflict in the MWF, MW, WF 10:50 schedule time. EPC agreed to change MW and WF 10:50-12:05 to 11:00-12:15, thus changing the open time Wednesday to a 12:30 start time. This pushes the daily lunch break back to a 12:30 start time. The Provost will send the new schedule to the Registrar for distribution to the faculty. Divisions should meet to determine Division schedules, which will be forwarded to the Registrar with 3 alternative times for each course noted. Curriculum committee will work out any conflicts across Divisions.
3. The committee agreed to postpone discussion of the Middle States PRR until next week in order to focus on the discussion of majors and how they fit into our institutional goals.
4. What is a major? One suggestion is that a major is a set of skills that allows students to do what is next in their chosen field. This requires a consideration of the nature of the senior experience (thesis, capstone, etc.). Another consideration is the relationship between the major and the core curriculum. One suggestion is that a major demonstrates "high level" work in one subject. What is the difference between a culminating experience in a major and a culminating experience in the core curriculum? One suggestion is focus – the major experience is focused in a discipline and the core curriculum experience is more generalized. What is the relationship between the two and is there value in both? If there is value in both, what has to happen to make that a reality within our resource limitations? Moreover, writing and research are core components of each major. How do we include these essential ingredients in a re-imagining of what a major is and be mindful of resource limitations? EPC will continue this conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tabrizi  
Secretary pro tempore