

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

February 25, 2015

Present: Professors Linda Lohn (Chair), Niamh O'Leary, Susan Wansor; Student Representative Leslie Green '17; and Provost Cindy Speaker

The meeting began at 3:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from February 11, 2015 were approved as corrected and those from February 18, 2015 were approved as drafted.

2. Proposed restructuring of SC 111, LW 100, and WLLS 122 – As noted last week, staff in advising and athletics have been working on a revision of these courses to better fulfill their goals, especially those required within the SC general education curriculum, by combining the courses into one 3-credit course required of all new students their first semester. The Provost distributed materials the working group provided for EPC's review. There was consensus among the Committee members that the idea is a worthy one and appropriate. Commendation was given for coming up with a course title that spells WELLS! And a suggestion was made to return to a Wells designator of the general education courses as SC does not have much meaning.)Concerns were expressed regarding the learning objectives. Specifically that many of them are expressed in non-assessable language. Also, given that writing development is a key goal within SC 101, it was felt that it was not necessary, nor appropriate, for it to be a primary learning objective for the revised course. Susan agreed to work with the group on developing assessable objectives. Committee members felt that it would be helpful to include on the proposed syllabus a week by week schedule of topics. Members asked how the course requirements fulfill the learning objectives. A suggestion was made to include material regarding students' relationship with the village as it was observed that currently many have a very one-sided view rather than a reciprocal one. Another suggestion was inclusion of instructors meeting with students individually to ensure that they are following through. Questions were raised about the scheduling of the sections, if there would be a special section for transfer students, and staffing. A suggestion was made that it would be helpful for there to be a coordinator for the first few years who helps the staff teaching be all on the same page. It likely would be helpful for those teaching to meet on a monthly basis.

3. Academic Calendar – The Committee resumed its prior discussion of the academic calendar as it specifically relates to the spring semester and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The committee discussed the implications for regularly starting before MKL Jr. Day and for doing so after it. The question was raised as to whether commencement should always be the same week in May. Members shared some of the concerns they heard expressed at recent division meetings. Our

homework assignment for the next meeting is to bring some examples of what the calendar may look like. The Provost requested that the Committee consider the entire academic calendar and not just the spring semester.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Speaker