

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

October 29, 2014

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

The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

1. Minutes from October 22, 2014 were approved.

2. The Committee returned to its work on the Sustainable Community (SC) curriculum. In addressing last week's homework assignment, the Chair distributed material from Kalamazoo College's Shared Passages program which sounds very similar to our SC one. After taking time to review the material, the Committee discussed how that institution has provided a much more cohesive web presence and in comparison we look much more directionless. The Chair noted that simply editing what we have currently is not likely to be a successful strategy. Some members noted that that approach in some ways is responsible for our current predicament. The Kalamazoo guidelines for faculty were noted to be especially attractive. In order to get our third-year themed seminar implemented, it was suggested that it may be a good idea to provide some incentive for faculty (e.g., \$500 stipend/course) to have the six needed courses. It was commented that our students are not excited by the courses that they take in fulfillment of the themed seminars, CMLs, and LGIs. One Committee member contrasted this to students at Hobart & William Smith and how they discuss the eight courses they take which they have to justify as fulfilling the general education learning objectives.

Regarding next steps, the Committee discussed the Chair's draft of the descriptions of the themed seminars and decided to work on establishing guidelines for faculty. The Committee felt that this would help with buy in for the program from students as well as faculty. The minute taker volunteered to circulate the current 101 goal document that faculty established quite some time ago as well and the May 2011 proposal for Sustainable Community that includes language regarding learning objectives for students. Critical here is the need for assessment of the SC curriculum and that is the Committee's responsibility.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Speaker