

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
October 6, 2015

Present: Professors Jeanne Goddard, Niamh O'Leary, Susan Wansor; and Provost Cindy Speaker
Call to order: 12:00pm

1. Minutes: approved as submitted.

2. General Education Curriculum.

Items discussed included:

- Significant negative feedback from Division meetings regarding current Sustainable Community model
- There has been no assessment procedure for first year and second year seminars, thus no way to know what's working - should this component be retained?
- SC third and fourth years have never been implemented (4 ½ years)
- Consensus among EPC members to redo Gen Ed curriculum completely, building in assessment from the start; create gen ed curriculum that clearly satisfies college's academic goals

Gen Ed requirements:

- Should add up to c. 40 credits (1/3 of total required for graduation)
- Should comprise courses without pre-requisites, encouraging students to explore outside their major interests
- Should build in assessment from the start
- Should include specific courses from each Division that directly meet the college's academic goals
- Should address writing, experiential learning, public speaking/oral presentation - not only required in syllabi but truly taught
- Will require attention to course rotations so the designated courses will be offered regularly
- Will stipulate that courses can only count in only one category, for simplicity
- Should coordinate with new Strategic Plan

Discussion of how to proceed:

- Chair O'Leary will create a rough draft for EPC discussion and reworking
- Present reworked draft to faculty, schedule open meeting for faculty input
- Final plan will go to full faculty for approval

3. Assessment:

- EPC faculty members have reviewed Assessment Plans and Reports for majors. Clearly not all majors are clear about the distinction between the Assessment Report and the Assessment Plan. As we move forward with curricular assessment procedures, faculty should be encouraged to converse with other disciplines and to look at examples nationally, and materials posted on the Globe
- Professor Goddard agreed to look at the college's assessment guidelines on the Globe and look for opportunities to streamline or clarify the materials.
- What should be the campus-wide mechanism for assessment? This year's EPC work needs to be sustainable into the future, perhaps through a college Assessment Committee.

Adjournment: 1:00pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 27 at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Goddard, Secretary Pro-tem