

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

November 10, 2015

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

The meeting began at 12:02 p.m.

1. Minutes from November 3, 2015 were approved.

2. Jeanne Goddard will take the meeting minutes on November 24th, and Susan Wansor will take the minutes on December 1st.

3. General Education Curriculum

- All members agreed to invite the Library Director, Carol Henderson, to a future meeting to get her perspective on the Information Literacy requirement.

- Writing Course(s)
 - Student Feedback on SC 101
 - Feedback provided to the Student Representative
 - Some students don't get the feedback they need to improve.
 - Some students haven't written anything or have only written on an exam.
 - Feedback provided on student evaluations
 - Some students say it was an amazing experience.
 - Some students say they learned about college writing.
 - Discussion
 - The discussion focused on the following areas:
 - Whether one or two courses are necessary
 - Whether writing in the content areas is necessary
 - If SC 101 should be removed or replaced
 - If SC 101 should be a spring course
 - Whether majors could provide writing in the discipline in their introductory courses
 - If so, how would they be assessed?
 - Areas of Agreement
 - Feedback from colleagues supports a writing course.
 - Based on feedback the writing course should be 3 credits.

- The writing course should focus on the fundamentals of writing.
 - Public speaking should be part of the 3 credit writing course.
 - The goals of a first year, first semester course(s) should be writing and transition to college.
 - Building in assessment will keep instructors more focused on writing as a goal.
 - Someone must oversee the first year course(s) and assess all sections.
- Global Languages and Culture
 - General information
 - The awareness of language requirement is currently being fulfilled in a 101, 102 sequence.
 - Students aren't continuing a language.
 - Many students are choosing to switch from the language they learned in high school.
 - Many students study abroad in English speaking countries.
 - Discussion
 - The discussion focused on the following areas:
 - Whether a one semester course is possible
 - The amount of language that is actually learned in one or two semesters
 - Creating a course with an emphasis on culture while learning some language along the way

4. Another "Issue for Ongoing Discussion"

- Packaging – How will we market or present our general education curriculum?

5. Homework

- All committee members are asked to look at other institutions' requirements for culture and global languages.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wansor