

Educational Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes 11/20/13

Committee Members in Attendance: Dr. Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College; Professor Linda Lohn, committee chair; Professors Ted Lossowski, Lauren O'Neil, and Susan Tabrizi and student representative Shane Puskar (Class of 2014).

Minutes from the 11/6/13 meeting were approved.

Agenda

1. Discussion of 'Institutional Goals' document
2. Report on new schedule plan
3. Discussion of Provost's forum (11/18/13)

Discussion

1. The final revision of the "Institutional Responsibilities" section, specifically section three, was discussed. The new language is as follows.

"Maintain a student-centered, seamless infrastructure that supports student learning both in and out of the classroom."

2. In regards to the new schedule plan, Prof. Lohn attempted to use Mimosa (free version) to aid in testing the new course schedule with the current course offerings. The free version of the software was unable to incorporate multiple limiting factors (teacher, room, etc.) and was abandoned.

Prof. Lohn is currently working on incorporating the current course offerings into the new schedule by hand. One difficulty with this task, according to Prof. Lohn, is the loss of class times on Wednesday afternoons due to the "Wells Wednesday" block. The courses that have yet to be incorporated into the master schedule are the majority of the lab courses and 4.0 credit, non-lab courses. Prof. Lohn will present the master schedule at the first meeting in December, at which time the committee will assess any conflicts that have resulted.

3. The discussion of the Provost's forum centered upon the difference between the comprehensive examination and the capstone amongst the various majors at Wells. The consensus at the Provost's forum was that the comprehensive examination should be eliminated. The committee discussed what this would mean for the capstone experience and also for the requirements for a student to earn distinction. Prof. Lohn suggested that the department based capstone could be replaced by an interdisciplinary capstone experience. However, Mr. Puskar voiced concerns about expecting students to move outside the major in the senior year. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren O'Neil
Secretary Pro Tempore