

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

December 1, 2015

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

The meeting began at 12:02 p.m.

1. Minutes from November 24, 2015 were approved.
2. End of semester report to the faculty
 - Add the approval of the motion to update the Faculty Manual with the number of credits for a BA and a BS
 - The Chair will forward the report to the Secretary of the Faculty
3. The Chair thanked Carol Henderson, Library Director for attending and opened the floor to discussion on the draft general education curriculum. Comments, questions, etc. included:
 - Information Literacy
 - Support can be seen for information literacy throughout the general education curriculum
 - Suggestion to link assessment tool for critical thinking to include information literacy
 - Suggestion that the first year seminar include the American Library Association Standards on information literacy related to: how to find information, what it means, where it is from, how to use it, and whether it is valuable and credible
 - Suggestion that information literacy be part of every WLLS 101 and 1XX course
 - Suggestion that there is possibly a level of performance in regards to information literacy that students are required to meet to pass WLLS 101
 - Agreement that all students do not need to take WLLS 121
 - Suggestion that distribution requirements 6, 7, 8, and 10 require the use of information resources appropriately
 - Agreement that the learning goal will be met in one requirement noted above and not added to the others
 - Suggestion to add information literacy under #12 so those courses move away from "old fashioned" PE activity courses and require students to be lifelong learners utilizing internet searches in regards to their future health and wellbeing
 - Assessment
 - Agreement that choice complicates assessment under requirement #14
 - Agreement that all course under requirement #14 expect some type of reflection and application

- Suggestion that an Assessment Committee be formed.
 - One person from each division would sit on the committee along with two administrators to provide more continuity.
 - The group charge would be to suggest changes to the system, provide evidence of what is being looked at, and provide data.
 - The group would be required to go back to the divisions and serve as a coach to get them back where they need to be in terms of assessment.
- Other
 - Agreement that the community book must be incorporated into the 1st year course
 - Suggestion that technology competency be taken care of by the majors
 - Agreement that this might make assessment an issue
 - Agreement that the person in charge of assessment will need to work with each major
 - Agreement that we are looking for technology competence in a field of study.
 - Agreement that there is a digital divide
 - Suggestion that there is some basic technology incorporated into WLLS 100 so students know how to navigate our webpage and Learning Management System
 - Suggestion that under the “Alignment of Goals and Curricular Components” M5 and S1 should be checked for all curricular components

4. Looking for a way to group the courses in the general education curriculum

- Organizing principles – skills and breadth
- Suggestion to have 4 categories: foundations, immersion, perspectives, and wellness

5. Curriculum Committee will be invited to the December 8th meeting to provide feedback on the draft general education curriculum.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wansor

Secretary pro tem