

Educational Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes February 29, 2012

Members in attendance: Provost Cindy Speaker (chair); Professors Koepp, Lossowski, Stiadle and Tabrizi; Student Representative Jeremiah Miller

The meeting began at 9:30am.

Approval of the meeting minutes from 2/22/12 was postponed until all members could access the electronic file.

1. Review of the survey from the second Celebrating Scholarship and Engagement Day. Substantive comments reflected that programs were well received. Participation by the community was low with a maximum of approximately 160 participants. Discussion regarding why participation was low included assessment of the strategies of incentivizing with extra credit assignments versus requiring participation. The suggestion was made that EPC should return to a conversation about the overarching conceptualization regarding what these days should be and, after that, how the format of events could complement that purpose. Another suggestion included a revision of the “days” such that they would rotate amongst divisions in terms of substantive theme.
2. A review of issues raised in a recent social science division meeting included the support for reducing the number of days, emphasizing that the day in the spring need not be Activism Symposium (EPC concurred) and the importance of including Activism organizers in the conversation going forward. Social science division also raised the issue of how the January term might be used to emphasize experiential learning.
3. Discussion of how EPC should proceed with changes to the spring calendar included the notion that practical concerns regarding student work, internships and retention deserve more investigation.
4. A report on the activities of curriculum committee indicated a proposed initiative to include a question assessing the Crafting Meaningful Lives seminars on the course evaluation form. Discussions in curriculum committee regarding the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year seminars has included questions about the substantive intentions of the plan for these seminars. The discussion has shifted to practical discussions regarding how to designate courses as Critical and Analytic Reasoning (CAR) and Scientific Literacy (SL). The sophomore seminar themed around Local and Global Interconnections will be initiated in Spring 2013.
5. After the report from curriculum committee the issue of how Arts and Humanities are represented in the themed seminars and a concern about their lack of visibility was

suggested by reference to discussions in both the social science and natural science divisions.

6. Discussion of melding the Arts and Humanities divisions is ongoing among members of those divisions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Tabrizi