

## Education Policy Committee

March 4, 2015

Present: Professors Niamh O'Leary, Susan Wansor; Student Representative Leslie Green '17; and Provost Cindy Speaker

Absent: Professor Linda Lohn (Chair)

The meeting began at 3:01 pm.

1. Minutes from 2-25-15 approved.
2. Curricular Maps were discussed in Curriculum Committee, which raised questions regarding assessment.
  - Should the responsibility of assessment move back to a campus wide assessment committee? One benefit would be the ability to assess campus in its entirety, beyond just academic programs. In a sense, the campus wide assessment committee would be the oversight committee, with subcommittees for different areas. Overall, EPC is not opposed to such an idea, and assumed that EPC would still remain in charge of the academic aspect of assessment. However, it would be unrealistic to expect that a campus wide committee could be created this late in the year/semester, so in the meantime EPC will be working harder to flesh out the details of assessment plans.
3. Transfer Requests arising from closing of Sweet Briar College
  - Current policy on our books is a required 60 hour residency. The committee discussed that the institutional special circumstances at play should warrant flexibility for current Sweet Briar Juniors who are looking to transfer to Wells to finish their degree (already 4 inquiries so far), given that precedent has been set in instances such as Hurricane Katrina.
  - These special transfer requests would be granted on case-by-case basis and students would be required to go through a petition process. Whether a given case is approved would involve Registrar, Director of Academic Advising, ASA, and the student's major department to be sure that the student would be able to complete the degree in 1 year.
4. Calendar
  - Members of EPC reviewed how other private colleges in the region are structuring their spring calendars and are still exploring alternative ways to arrange our spring semester to accommodate for MLK Jr. Day.
  - Significant topics for consideration include: length of J-term, number of exam days, number of study days, whether Commencement needs to be held on a weekend, the importance of handing out diplomas at Commencement, the amount of time between the last day of classes and Commencement, the number of days in which the Registrar needs to calculate grades, summer employment/internship opportunities, and travel time for families of graduating seniors.

5. Homework

-Moving forward with assessment, EPC will be evaluating departmental assessments that have been submitted and are on the Globe.

-Each faculty member on the committee will focus on the departments in their division.

-Evaluating current assessments will provide insight into what information is already out there so EPC can determine more clearly what we're looking for within departmental assessments as well as what we need.

-Even majors that have not been approved by the state will need to put forth assessments.

The meeting at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Green.