

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

March 7, 2016

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

The meeting began at 1:50 p.m.

1. Minutes from February 29, 2016 were approved.

2. Foreign Language Requirement

- The concern was raised that there is a miscommunication between faculty and students regarding the foreign language requirement in the draft of the new general education curriculum. Foreign language courses are not being eliminated; however, the students are being allotted options under the Global Languages and Cultures section.

3. Course Time Slots

- A concern regarding the 4:45 – 6:45 time slot only being utilized for physical education courses was brought to the committee's attention.
 - Discussion focused on the following areas:
 - If a course was offered during this time slot, athletes would not be able to take it
 - It is helpful for athletes and coaches
 - Teams need a common time to practice together
 - Other time slots in the schedule are underutilized
 - There are many time slots available
 - The Wednesday seminar time was supposed to be used for labs that are also offered at other times so athletes would have another option
 - Decision
 - Keep the time slot available for athletics

4. Strategic Plan

- Currently EPC is still waiting for comments on the General Education Curriculum
- The timeframe for getting the new curriculum in place is as follows:
 - A second draft will be brought to the faculty in the spring of 2016
 - The General Education Curriculum will be brought to faculty for a vote in the fall of 2016
 - Assessment of the curriculum will be worked on after faculty approval
 - The assessment plan will be completed by the spring of 2017

- Implementation will begin in the fall of 2017
- 5. Requirement of 60 hours for transfer students to be eligible for a Wells degree
 - Discussion/questions
 - Writing is an issue for many transfer students. Do they need a writing course?
 - Are we requiring a number of courses that are not necessary?
 - Students are bringing in a number of credits.
 - Traditionally our transfer students have been juniors, but we are currently seeing more freshman and sophomore students.
 - If we lower the number would it help recruit more transfer students?
 - Are there financial aid implications?
 - Action Steps
 - Niamh will contact Susan Sloan in Admissions to find out whether or not lowering the requirement would assist with attracting perspective students.
- 6. Repeating a Course
 - The current policy is that a student can only repeat a course if they fail. However, a number of students petition to repeat a course they did poorly in the first time.
 - Discussion/Questions
 - Are students repeating to improve the GPA or learn the material?
 - Where can we draw the line?
 - Currently we allow a C- to be transferred.
 - This allows a student from another institution the benefit of repeating a course that we don't allow our students to repeat.
 - Consensus
 - Allowing a student to repeat a course that he/she earned a D+ or lower would align the policy with transfer students.
 - Niamh will contact Nicole in the Registrar to see if that makes sense on her end.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wansor
Secretary pro tem