

Educational Policy Committee (EPC) March 14, 2012

Present: Professors Cynthia J Koepp, Ted Lossowski, Tom Stiadle, Susan Tabrizi; Student Representative Jeremiah Miller '14; and Provost Cindy Speaker (chair).

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

1. Minutes of February 22, 2012 were approved with changes.
Minutes of March 7, 2012 also approved.
2. We discussed the EPC Open meeting on College's institutional and academic program goals of 12 March 2012. Some concern expressed about low faculty attendance and the attention to format and form of goals rather than substance, although some substantive points were voiced. We need to make sure that faculty appreciate the seriousness of the question: What ought students to learn while at Wells? It seems that some faculty members have not yet connected with the new curriculum; it is really essential to work out objectives and details of themed seminars, for example. Majors will need to articulate connections to new set of goals as well.
3. After break, we have 6 more meetings. We agreed to spend that time addressing three or four topics:

Discussion of the learning goals will be an important piece. And whether or not group wants to pursue issue of consistency across majors for internships and senior projects.

We might want to discuss what should the senior project/thesis be, in order to fulfill the goals and objectives that we have established. Senior thesis was intended to be one place where writing, editing, and revising could happen. Independent work could be a standard. We need to make sure that students have the practice and opportunity to improve their skills. Faculty would benefit and appreciate more guidance in teaching writing and related matters.

We need to plan for how capstone experience gets developed (at this point the capstones in majors are extremely varied) as we try to insure that students regardless of major have similar types of experiences.

For our final six meetings of semester, we face both practical issues and philosophical issues. We decided to address the goals question first and end with the following:

1. Setting CSE days
2. Implementation Plan for capstone course for SC curriculum --how it will be developed.

For next time we should be prepared to discuss learning goals. That will help us prepare to articulate what our learning objectives should be.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J. Koepp

Secretary pro tem