

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

April 26, 2018

Present: Professors Desmond Cummins, Laura McClusky, Katie Waugh (chair), and Provost Cindy Speaker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the April 12 and April 19 meetings were approved as corrected.

2. Program Assessment Discussion

Committee members shared their reflections on their review of the assessment reports and plans assigned to them. Some observations and trends noted included that most reports were not reflective on the success criteria; many did not focus on student learning but rather reported on their plan, some seemed to be more assessment of the program rather than student learning; some programs submitted the same report as the previous year. The Committee discussed how to help faculty do assessment better. There seems to be language confusion for some (i.e., distinctions between goals, objectives, and outcomes). Some members find visuals helpful in the reports. The sentiment was expressed that assessment should be at a higher level. The Education report may provide a type of model as their accrediting body requires the use of “evidence for claims” language. We should remind faculty to review the College current learning goals for students as it appears some programs are still using the old goals. The question was raised as to what distinguishes a Wells education as the academic goals are similar to other institutions and related more to discipline rather than institution. The Committee discussed holding an open session for faculty during finals week perhaps at lunch time (though a reminder that the Committee is meeting with EPC at noon on Thursday May 10) but also recognized that most faculty are likely to focus on assessment after commencement so that it may be better to hold something later in May. At the May 9th Faculty Meeting, there will be a discussion on assessment. The question was raised as to whether or not we want to give faculty an option for feedback on their last report before the next one is due.

3. Next Week’s Meeting

Homework for next week is to bring some draft templates for a model assessment plan. At next week’s meeting, we will discuss whether or not we want to do specific interventions and if so for what programs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College