

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)  
September 8, 2015

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

Call to order: 12:01pm

1. Minutes: approved as submitted.

2. Notice of motion to revise Faculty Manual language concerning dual degree requirements: approved as proposed. To be presented at full faculty meeting 9 September 2015.

3. Assessment:

Review of rubrics drafted for review of Assessment Plans and Reports for academic majors. Questions raised concerning the need (or not) for a scale of accomplishment, as in previous Assessment Committee rubrics. Perhaps this should be a second phase of the process. Goal of EPC at this point is to provide the faculty with a general report on the state of assessment of academic programs at Wells and perhaps offer an "Assessment Tip of the Month". Eventually we'll provide individual feedback to majors, working always to involve all faculty and to make the process more user-friendly.

EPC faculty members should begin reviewing Assessment Plans and Reports as assigned and report back to the committee.

Provost Speaker distributed copies of the new Middle States Standards for Accreditation. As we continue to improve our assessment process for Middle States, we know we are doing good work but need a process that does not overtax the faculty.

4. Dual degree programs:

- a - Elmira does not offer dual degree; rather, many majors offer both the BA and the BS option.
- b - which NYSED approval process is more tedious - to grant BS and BA option for all degrees, or to clear each individual dual degree
- c - discussion/reference to Cornell policy (handout)
- d - does Wells "vision" require NYSED approval, since what we propose is not a dual degree as other institutions define it, but rather a "double major in different degree programs." If students complete all requirements with "unique" separate credits for both majors, they may not need the additional credit hours (to 150) -- but they may end up with 150 anyway.

5. Comparing dual degree proposal with current double majors and individualized majors:

- a - degree of course overlap in current "double major" requirements is not specified
- b - GPA requirement for double major is currently 3.5. Concern that this is too high and turns capable students away from double major. Perhaps 3.0 is sufficient. Current GPA requirement for individualized major is 2.7. EPC will revisit this question.
- c - EPC feels Wells (especially with our small size and individual mentoring of students) could be more flexible concerning approval of individualized majors and double majors. The committee discussed removing the rule that one of the majors in double major cannot be an individualized major.
- d - DEADLINE for double major and "dual degree" proposals will be the end of advising week in the fall semester of the sophomore year.

6. English position request to be discussed next meeting. Prof. O' Leary distributed the language from the Faculty Manual concerning vacated tenure-track positions.

7. Topic for Provost Forum September 30: TBA

Adjournment: 1:03pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 15 at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Goddard  
Secretary Pro-tem