

Educational Policy Committee
April 23, 2014

Committee members in attendance: Dr. Cindy Speaker, Provost and Dean of the College; Professors Lohn (committee chair), Lossowski, O'Neil and Tabrizi; Shane Puskar, student representative.

Minutes from April 16 were approved.

1. The Committee discussed the survey of faculty regarding course level classifications, course prerequisites and thesis requirements in majors. Reflections of general understandings from answers yielded the idea that 100 level courses are introductory courses and should be accessible to all students; at the 200 level courses focus on specific topics but still at an introductory or intro/beginning-advanced level; at the 300 level courses are specific but advanced in terms of topic and skill set. The Committee agreed that our assessment should focus on what a student should know or be able to do at each level. The Committee also agreed that it would be helpful for EPC to construct a document that guides faculty in terms of describing the goals, objectives and outcomes for each level of course. Starting with this foundation would allow for further discussion of pre-requisites and how to vet POI requests. EPC will begin work on creating a document regarding course level characteristics that can serve as a guide for assessment and curricular coherence. This foundation will allow the Committee to then address issues regarding the senior thesis and the SC curriculum's junior and senior requirements.
2. Future agenda: Next week, EPC will discuss the Hunter College and Edwardsville course characteristics documents distributed at today's meeting, highlighting what we like and do not like with a mind toward a plan for summer work. EPC is agreed to draft a course level characteristics guide over the summer to be presented at day for faculty in August.
3. Provost Speaker will schedule a joint meeting between EPC and Curriculum Committee for Senior Week.
4. Special thanks to the Arts Division for approving Professor Lohn's appointment to EPC next term as representative from Arts and Humanities.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tabrizi
Secretary pro tempore