

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

April 11, 2016

Present: Provost Cindy Speaker, Professors Jeanne Goddard, Niamh O'Leary (chair), and Susan Wansor, Student Rep. Chris Castro

Call to Order: 1:48PM

1. Minutes. Minutes of April 4, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

2. Faculty Position Requests.

The committee noted that a number of the position requests we are reviewing referred to current or prospective faculty members by name, and felt that this was inappropriate. EPC should be considering requests for a faculty position, rather than for a specified individual. Requests will not be returned for revision at this time, but faculty will be reminded in future not to use individuals' names in such requests. EPC will continue to review position requests in the light of Curriculum Committee findings regarding the Curricular Prioritization process.

3. Update on Curriculum Prioritization process: Provost Speaker.

The Curriculum Committee has completed rubric scores for each program. The goal of the process is to stabilize the curriculum for the benefit of the students, rather than to focus on the specializations of individual faculty.

4. Community feedback on proposed General Education curriculum: Overall perception and "Foundations" segment.

There was a great deal of support for the overall vision of the new Gen Ed curriculum, with some easy "fixes" suggested in format and organization.

Those who wrote to EPC continue to be concerned about: staffing the first-year courses; the number of first-year courses; the need for a coordinator for the first-year courses; the teaching of writing; specificity of learning goals and means of assessment.

The committee discussed the possibility of students "placing out" of a writing course if they can demonstrate they have successfully completed a course in writing that would meet Wells's standards.

Adjournment: 2:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Goddard
Secretary pro tem