

**Minutes of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting of the  
Educational Policy Committee (EPC)**

*Present:* Provost Cindy Speaker, Professor Linda Lohn (Chair), Professor Susan Wansor, Professor Niamh O' Leary, and Student Representative Leslie Green '17.

- Professor Lohn called the meeting to order at 3PM.
- The minutes of the 11/12/2014 EPC meeting were approved unanimously.
- The Advisory Committee has endorsed the request to hire an Organic Chemist.
- Some difficulties that have come up with the scheduling of spring 2015 class were discussed. Major points raised included the following:
  - The Curriculum Committee and the Registrar will assess the new class schedule
  - The spread of class meeting times over the schedule is key. Are some slots over-subscribed?
  - Obvious conflicts need to be known by the Registrar and the Director of Academic Advising & Success
  - Proactive planning in programs and divisions is key in optimizing the schedule and minimizing potential conflicts
- Leslie reported on a recent ZAP discussion hosted by Collegiate and staff from the Dean of Students office. The topic concerned the inclusiveness of the Wells community. During the discussion several issues were brought up pertaining to the curriculum/faculty, and were discussed by EPC, including the following:
  - Student concern about some classes that use outdated textbooks that perpetuate stereotypes. Diversity training for faculty might be helpful to address this type of issue.
  - Student interest in a greater curriculum focus on issues related to social justice. Several offerings across the curriculum probably address these issues in some way, as does various programming on campus.
  - Positive feedback on a practice currently used by some faculty which allows a few minutes at the beginning of a class period for students to share information about upcoming events and programs.

It was suggested that the SFA (Student Faculty Administration Board) is the appropriate body to take these concerns further. Leslie and Provost Speaker will follow-up.

- We continued discussion of the social science position request that we began last week, and discussed the broader issue of how to address position requests.
- The next meeting will focus on our continued discussion of the Sustainable Community curriculum. Related to this effort we will plan an open meeting of the faculty.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Niamh O' Leary