

Minutes of the January 21st, 2015 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.
- A rota of minute-taking duties for the semester was developed with the following result:
 - January 28 – Leslie
 - February 4 – Susan
 - February 11 – Cindy
 - February 18 – Leslie
 - February 25 – Cindy
 - March 4 – Leslie
 - March 18 – Susan
 - March 25 – Niamh
 - April 1 – Cindy
 - April 8 – Susan
 - April 15 – Niamh
 - April 22 – Susan
 - April 29 – TBD
- Agenda items for the spring 2015 semester are currently as follows:
 - Consideration of position request for the Criminal Justice minor and the faculty-approved Criminal Justice major.
 - Discussion of academic calendar concerns
 - Discussion of issues related to the general education curriculum. This broad topic includes continued discussion of the 3rd year seminar and revisiting the development of faculty guidelines for themed seminars, as well as scheduling an open meeting with the faculty and bringing a notice of motion to the faculty, as appropriate. There is also a desire to restore a missing “L”; courses currently designated as “CML” (“Crafting Meaningful Lives”) were intended as “CMLL” (“Crafting Meaningful Lives through Learning”). Professor O' Leary noted that several difficulties related to implementation of the 3rd year themed seminar remain unaddressed. These include concerns about prerequisites for these courses, questions around staffing, and difficulties with the logistics of ensuring that sufficient numbers of courses that fulfil the requirement would routinely be offered in a manner compatible with the class schedules of students in a variety of majors. Broader issues related to the general education curriculum are also of concern including “double dipping” between the major requirements and the general education requirements. These issues need to be considered in the context of the necessary assessment of the general education curriculum (see next agenda item) and the recent Middle States report.
 - Determination of how to assess the general education curriculum.
 - Consideration of the current policy surrounding the circumstances in which a student is eligible for a grade of incomplete. This agenda item possibly falls

under the purview of ASAA (Academic Standing, Advising, and Admissions Committee) rather than EPC.

- The committee resumed discussion of a position request for the Criminal Justice minor and the faculty-approved Criminal Justice major. The committee approved the request. Professor Lohn will share EPC's recommendation with the Advisory Committee.
- The committee embarked upon a discussion of the academic calendar. Concerns have been brought to the committee about whether classes should be in session on Martin Luther King Junior day, and on the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. Members of the committee agreed that the importance of Martin Luther King Junior day should be recognized. [*Post meeting note*: after the meeting it was determined that if no changes are made to the current academic calendar, Martin Luther King Junior day will fall before the beginning of the spring semester in each of the next three years.] Currently members of the committee are inclined to leave the fall semester calendar as is. Consideration of the entire academic calendar will be revisited at an upcoming meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Niamh O' Leary