

Minutes of the April 15th, 2015 Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

Present: Professor Susan Wansor, Professor Niamh O' Leary, and Student Representative Leslie Green '17, Present for some of meeting: Provost Cindy Speaker

- The meeting was called to order at 3PM.
- Minutes of the April 8th meeting were approved.
- Provost Speaker distributed a reading, "Assessment Clear and Simple: A Practical Guide for Institutions, Departments and General Education", for the committee to read. This should be useful when we prepare to assess the general education curriculum.
- Professor Wansor shared a draft of further manipulations of the spring calendar. Using spring 2019 as an example, she presented various ways in which the semester could be arranged so that classes would not be held on MLK Junior day. This would be applicable to all of the years when the holiday coincides with the first day of spring semester classes, if we made no changes to our current spring calendar. Every arrangement has pros and cons. Two options were considered the best of the possibilities – these are pasted below as Options C and D.
- It was brought to the committee's attention that the prohibition on using one course to simultaneously fulfil multiple elements of the sustainable community curriculum is currently stated only in informal advising materials and is not currently in the catalog. The committee agreed that this policy should be added to the catalog. As this does not involve a change to the *Faculty Manual*, this does not need faculty approval. We should just ask the Registrar to add it to the catalog. This will help eliminate any confusion.
- Prior to the meeting Provost Speaker had circulated a document summarizing the requirements and goals of the components of the sustainable community curriculum. We focused on the description of the 4th year seminar.
 - There was some discussion about whether existing senior thesis/capstone experiences in majors could be used to fulfil this requirement, but it was determined that this would present various difficulties.
 - We then discussed whether it would be possible to develop a 1 credit course that all seniors would take to meet this requirement. This would be a largely self-guided exercise in which seniors would develop a portfolio integrating and reflecting on their experience at Wells; a theme for the portfolio, based on a chosen current issue of significance, might be provided. Aspects of the academic experience, including the general education program as well as the major, co-curricular experiences, internships, volunteer work, off campus study, etc., could all be included. This course would be graded S/U and work would be assessed by faculty who volunteer to participate. Staff in offices such as Experiential Learning & Careers and Academic Advising & Success could also contribute. Students would be introduced to the portfolio idea in the freshman year in the SC 100 course. The portfolio would be electronic in nature and the tool "optimal resume" could be used. Some seniors would complete this capstone in the fall, and some would complete it in the spring.
- We will meet at 2pm next week
- The meeting adjourned at 4:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Niamh O' Leary

OPTION C	Day	Sp 2019
Returning/New Students Arrive	Tuesday	1/15
Classes Begin	Wednesday	1/16*
<i>MLK Day (No Classes)</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>1/21</i>
Spring Break	Sat. – Sun.	3/9-3/17
Honors Convocation	Wednesday	5/1
Classes End	Wednesday	5/1
Study Days	Thurs. – Sun.	5/2-5/5
Final Exams	Mon. – Thurs.	5/6 – 5/9
Senior Grades Due	Monday	5/13
Commencement	Saturday	5/18
<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>5/27</i>

*1/16 in on a Monday schedule

37 days before break

OPTION D	Day	Sp 2019
Returning/New Students Arrive	Wednesday	1/16
Classes Begin	Thursday	1/17*
<i>MLK Day (No Classes)</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>1/21</i>
Spring Break	Sat. – Sun.	3/9-3/17
Honors Convocation	Wednesday	5/1
Classes End	Thursday	5/2
Study Days	Fri. – Sun.	5/3-5/5
Final Exams	Mon. – Thurs.	5/6 – 5/9
Senior Grades Due	Monday	5/13
Commencement	Saturday	5/18
<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>5/27</i>

*1/17 is on a Monday schedule

36 days before break