A&S Education Policy Committee
March 12, 2015

1) Announcements

The next EPC meeting will be April 16, 2015.

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the November 20, 2014 meeting were approved without revision.

3) Subcommittee Recommendations on Medical Humanities Pilot

The subcommittee chair shared the results of the subcommittee’s discussion of the pilot. The subcommittee endorsed approving credits from international programs: they suggested that the approvals should be provided for the students ahead of time and noted that a list of preapproved courses is probably not feasible. Regarding increasing the number of students in the minor, the subcommittee did have concerns over whether the introductory course (ENG 2212) and the advanced electives could accommodate the increase. Students should ideally take the introductory class at the beginning of their pursuit of the minor, and the course should foster the development of community. Increasing the number of students in the minor may make both of these objectives difficult. The subcommittee endorsed keeping the application window for the minor as it is currently running (March freshman year through October junior year.) The issue of whether School of Nursing (SON) students should be allowed to pursue the minor is closed because SON will be offering a similar program.

Amy Boesky responded to the subcommittee, noting that a second instructor will be available to teach ENG 2212 and that the total number of students in the minor would not exceed 150 if 50 students were admitted into the minor each year. If ENG 2212 is offered three semesters out of four in a two-year cycle, student scheduling and class size issues can be managed. Regarding advanced electives, instructors have been willing to hold seats for the minors so that minors can complete their capstone elective requirements. Allowing students the opportunity to take the advanced elective in the junior or senior year would make it easier for students to meet the requirement as well. As for acquiring credits from programs abroad, Amy noted that less than 20% of the minors go abroad junior year, so this is not a widespread issue. That said, it might be difficult for students to get preapproval for their courses because students often cannot access syllabi or course materials until they are in their host countries. By giving approval after the course has been taken, the program can ensure that the course was relevant to the minor and that the work required for the course was substantial.
The EPC questioned Dr. Boesky about other aspects of the minor, such as whether it achieves its educational goals and whether administering the program will be sustainable in the long run. After she addressed these concerns, the EPC motioned to approve the Medical Humanities Minor with an enrollment cap of 50 students per year. The motion was approved.

4. Charge to the Subcommittee on Language Proficiency Requirement

The subcommittee chair reported that the student request for an independent major received unanimous support from the subcommittee. The subcommittee has met and has also consulted with language departments to discuss the language proficiency requirement. The subcommittee will report at the April meeting on their findings regarding the articulation of learning goals for the requirement and the possibility of recognizing higher levels of proficiency.

In Attendance:
Michael Martin
Kara Naccarelli
Rudolph Hon
Amy Boesky
Gerald Easter
Mary Troxell
Thomas McGuinness
Luke Jorgensen
Hagop Toghramadjian
John Baldwin
Kathy Dunn
Clare Dunsford
Eve Spangler
William Petri
Christopher Maxwell
Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.

Submitted: Mary Troxell