Morrissey College of Arts & Science
Education Policy Committee
September 15, 2016

1. Welcome and Announcements
Greg Kalscheur began by welcoming the committee to the first EPC meeting of the 2016-2017 school year and introducing the new members to the committee.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2016
We reviewed the minutes from the May 9th meeting and approved them with only minor revisions.

3. Description of Subcommittees
Michael Martin reviewed the responsibilities of the various subcommittees, namely Academic Affairs, Honors, and Student Appeals, and asked members to choose a subcommittee to join for the year.

4. Possible Business for the Year
Greg introduced two possible items of business for the committee for the upcoming year: majors in Chinese language and Arabic language and the Global Public Health Minor. The committee does not yet have a proposal for the Chinese and Arabic language majors, but anticipates having it before the next meeting. Ideally this would be the first order of business for the committee so that students could declare the major in the spring if it is indeed approved.

The Global Public Health Minor was first introduced to the committee the previous spring, so we reviewed where we had left off in the process of approving the minor. Several concerns were voiced regarding the minor: how it, as an interschool program, will be structured and governed, where it will be housed, and how it will relate to the proposed Institute for Integrated Science and Society. In addition, several questions came up from the committee regarding the minor: should there be an administrative structure outside of the two schools? If a student can complete the minor without taking a course in MCAS, does it make sense to house it in MCAS? Is there a leadership structure and a succession plan? Do we have existing courses that can be bundled or do we need to make new courses and, if the latter, do we have the resources? What kind of student interest is there in the minor? Can the proposed existing electives accommodate those students who choose the minor? Two committee members commented that some of the MCAS departments such as Political Science and English are not represented in the list of
electives for the minor. One way to ensure the resilience of the program would be to increase the number of courses, so it makes sense to see if courses in the unrepresented departments offer relevant electives.

The committee considered whether to invite the proposed Global Public Health Minor committee to present again and also whether more MCAS faculty members should get involved in the conversation. The committee agreed that the next step would be to contact Summer Sherburne Hawkins to see where the proposal stands.

Before adjourning the meeting, Greg proposed that future meetings begin at 4:15 instead of 4:00 in order to accommodate members who have class until 4:15. The committee agreed upon the new starting time. While the starting time will be pushed up, meetings will still end by 5:30.

Michael circulated a document on which members could note which subcommittee they will be joining for the year, and the meeting was adjourned.

In Attendance:
Gregory Kalscheur, SJ (chair)
Michael Martin
Can Erbil
Ken Metz
Eileen Donovan-Kranz
Rory Browne
Julian Bourg
Celeste Wells
Howard Straubing
Bill Petri
Eve Spangler
Mary Troxell