DRAFT

Present: David Quigley, Bill Petri, Frank Gollop, David Vanderhooft, Rudi Hon, Michael Martin, Bill Keane, Michael Moore, Beth Kowaleski-Wallace, Nicholas Lessin, Gregory Herbers, Brandon Marianacci, Clare Dunsford, Kathy Dunn, Akua Sarr, Harry Rosser, Tom McGuinness

Dean Quigley called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

I. Minutes of past EPC meetings

The minutes of the May 10, 2010 and September 23, 2010 EPC meetings were distributed and approved unanimously.

II. Academic Affairs Subcommittee

Bill Petri reported on cross-listed courses

• The issue, at its highest level, is that there are different models of how to treat cross-listed courses—especially cross-listed courses that may count toward satisfying multiple majors.
• It is not clear whether this is an administrative and/or academic matter.
• The subcommittee had not yet had an opportunity to discuss this issue and therefore had no recommendation to offer. The subcommittee will discuss the issue at its next meeting and will report to the EPC at its November meeting.

III. Honors Subcommittee

Student-submitted independent major proposal in Environmental Sustainability

• The subcommittee recommended not to accept the proposal. The primary reasons for the subcommittee’s recommendation were (a) the courses proposed were primarily lower-division courses and (b) the proposal simply looked like an effort to combine two minors.
• It was also reported that a formal environmental sustainability minor is under development.
• The student proposal led to a discussion of a number of related issues:
  o There was discussion about whether the University even should have independent majors. On the one hand, the university offers plenty of options for students, in particular the number of minors available to students. On the other hand, the independent major offers students the opportunity to do something they otherwise would not be able to do and may in fact be a useful breeding ground for building new areas of formal curricular development—whether minors or majors.
  o The discussion soon turned to the wisdom of double majors versus encouraging students to delve more deeply into a single major most
notably through engaging in a serious research project under faculty direction.

- Dean Quigley suggested that the committee review the process of independent majors at other major universities including the top tier of Jesuit universities.
- The full EPC voted unanimously to accept the subcommittee’s recommendation not to accept the student’s proposal for an independent major in Environmental Sustainability.

IV. New Business

Dean Quigley reported that several faculty members have approached him to discuss the number of Woods College courses that are (and should be) counted toward satisfying A&S and department requirements for the Core and majors, respectively. At present, departments have their own protocols for accepting Woods College courses and department policies vary widely across A&S and the university. The relevant question is whether there should be a university-wide policy. The practical issue for the EPC is whether it should voice a position though, if it did, its position would only be an unsolicited advisory to higher-level BC administrative bodies.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Frank Gollop