College of Arts and Sciences
Educational Policy Committee

Minutes
November 18, 2009
Fulton 412

Attending:
Kathy Dunn, Clare Dunsford, Frank Gollop, Gregory Herbers, Bill Keane, Beth Kowaleski-Wallace, Brandon Marianacci, Michael Martin, Tom McGuinness, Mike Moore, Bill Petri, David Quigley, Harry Rosser, Akua Sarr, David Vanderhooft, Barb Viechnicki

Dean Quigley called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

The minutes of the October 21st meeting were approved unanimously.

I. Bill Petri, reporting for the Academic Affairs Subcommittee, presented three issues for the EPC’s consideration.

(a) The English Department has proposed a change to its major. The number of credits for the major would increase from 30 to 33 with addition of a new course requirement, Theories and Methods of Interpretation. Beth Kowaleski-Wallace commented that, as the Department argued in its proposal, the change will make the major more coherent without requiring additional resources. The subcommittee recommended approval and the EPC granted it unanimously.

Bill Petri mentioned that the English Department is also preparing a proposal for an Intensive Literature Concentration.

(b) The Subcommittee had discussed a proposal from the History Department to increase the number of credits given for HS570 Social Action in America from 3 to 4. The argument given was that the course meets 3 hours per week, and also requires 3 hour per week of practicum. The subcommittee was divided on the proposal, but feels that the first step, before a decision, would be to develop standards for valuing 1 credit.

Several points arose in the course of the discussion:

- A basic national standard is 1 credit hour = 1 class hour + 2 homework hours.
• Other categories, such as practicum or community service, should have established credit guidelines.
• The standards should be brief and general, dealing with principles and not attempting to handle all possible exceptions; that would be the job of the EPC. They should apply to most courses with ease.
• Some special programs, such as Pulse and Perspective, may need to be handled separately.

The Subcommittee was charged with developing a standards proposal for the EPC.

(c) The Subcommittee had received a letter from Rhonda Frederick, director of African and African Diaspora Studies, expressing concern about cross-listed courses. Specifically, many students appear not to understand that registering for a course under one department’s number (such as BKxxx) does not preclude its counting toward requirements in a cross-listing department (for example, ENxxx). The subcommittee felt that the problem is essentially technical, requiring a clear primary "owner" of each course; the EPC concurred.

II. Dean Quigley encouraged Committee members to read a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education called "The Shadow Scholar", detailing, in the first person, the operations of a "paper mill". These are online operations that write papers on demand for pay; they are written to order for a single customer, with very short turnover time. A brief discussion ensued, in which several committee members pointed out that these services are not limited to the humanities: some services, for example, will deliver solutions to mathematical problem sets. Dean Quigley closed the discussion by asking committee members to suggest policies that might improve the University statement on integrity and discourage the practice.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Keane