Education Policy Committee
May 4, 2015

1) Preliminary Remarks/Actions

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks; and, the review and approval of the minutes from the EPC meeting of April 16, 2015.

2) Art History Major – Curriculum Revision

The first order of business was a notification from the Fine Arts Department regarding a proposed curriculum revision: to create an additional of a “non-Western” track as an option for Art History Majors. Following a brief non-critical discussion, the proposal was approved.

3) Foreign Language Requirement Discussion/Actions

The committee then picked up the discussion begun at the previous EPC meeting (4/16) regarding the official framing of the A&S foreign language requirement. Two particular proposals from the previous meeting were discussed and acted on:

a) A proposal to articulate a formal rationalization of the Foreign Language Requirement, consistent with the more general mission of the Morrissey College. After discussion, the EPC approved the following statement:

Language is the foundation of the capacity to reason and reflect. Through foreign language study, our understanding of human experience is uniquely enhanced and enriched. Foreign language study cultivates the communication and comprehension skills necessary to engage and participate in the diverse global society to which we belong.

b) A proposal was discussed to eliminate reference to the term “proficiency” in regards to the fulfillment of the A&S For Lang requirement. A consensus arrived to reject this proposal and maintain the term “proficiency,” as explicitly defined as a successful completion of intermediate level course work; or, the equivalent thereof.

c) Finally, the committee identified two additional issues related to the Foreign Language Requirement for exploration next year: (1) Devising a more coherent and uniform system across the Lang/Lit Departments for assessing “Native Proficiency,” which is becoming an increasingly complicated demand on the deans’ offices; and, (2) Devising an optional Foreign Language “high bar,” by which those students who demonstrate practical usage (eg., study abroad course work in native languages; or, advanced level course completion) receive some form if recognition from the College upon graduation (sash; tassle; commendation).
4) Closing Remarks

The EPC was then adjourned until Fall 2015, amid good wishes for the summer.

In Attendance:

Michael Martin  
Kara Naccarrelli  
Amy Boesky  
Gerald Easter  
Mary Troxell  
Thomas McGuinness  
Clare Dunsford  
Christopher Maxwell  
Kathy Dunn  
William Petri  
Chair, Gregory Kalschuer, SJ