Minutes of A&S EPC

Oct 31, 2013; 3 PM in Gasson 105

Attending: Amy Boesky, Rory Browne, CK Cheung, Tim Duket, Kathy Dunn, Clare Dunsford, Greg Kalscheur, S.J., Katie Lavallee, Chris Maxwell, Kara Naccarelli, David Quigley and Franziska Seraphim

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

2. Minutes from previous meeting (Sept 18, 2013) unanimously approved by the EPC with no changes or edits (motion for approval moved by Browne; seconded by Cheung).

3. Chair asked Duket to report on recommendations of Academic Affairs Subcommittee on proposals for 1) Biology Minor and 2) Environmental Studies Major.

4. Biology Minor: Duket reviewed the history of the proposal and the previous concern about impact of the Minor on the Biology Major. The likely impact is now believed to be minor, and so the proposal has been unanimously approved by the subcommittee and recommended for approval by the EPC. Unanimously approved by the EPC (motion for approval moved by Browne; seconded by Seraphim).

5. Environmental Studies Major: Duket reviewed the proposal (which was unanimously approved by the subcommittee and was now recommended for approval by the EPC), focusing on several themes: What’s in a name? (Environmental Studies), Themes and disciplines, Application and admission to the Major, Non-Core credit for Environmental Systems courses, Thesis requirement, and Staffing (present and future). Extensive discussion by EPC with focus on likely evolution of the Major, development of new themes and disciplines, dependence of offerings on current staffing and interests, launch strategy and limits on admits in next several years as the Major is rolled out, application process (closed vs open enrollment) and differential impact on different classes (frosh, soph, etc.), focused and structured advising support,
specifics of Sr Seminar course, current staffing/structure and future hires, advisability of required Thesis, and inter-disciplinary nature of the Major and fit with existing A&S courses. Widespread support for the proposal, acknowledging incremental nature of the undertaking, the importance of getting started, strength and positioning of current staffing for success in early stages of the roll-out, and the need to work out a number of specifics. Unanimously approved by the EPC with request that Noah Snyder attend the next EPC meeting and discuss roll-out strategy and other specifics (motion for approval moved by Browne; seconded by Duket).

6. Chair asked Cheung to report on recommendations of the Honors Subcommittee on course proposals for 1) *Journey to Racial Advocacy* (AHANA/Sociology), and 2) *Cooperative Educational Opportunities* (African and African Diaspora Studies). Given the hour, 2) was tabled for the next EPC meeting.

7. Course proposal - *Journey to Racial Advocacy*: Cheung reviewed proposal (which was unanimously approved by the subcommittee and was now recommended for approval by the EPC). Discussion focused on the strength/detail of the proposal, the fact that it is now proposed to be one credit course graded Pass/Fail, the letter of endorsement from the Sociology Dept., and the flexibility of the UN course designation. Course proposal unanimously approved by the EPC (motion for approval moved by Cheung; seconded by Browne).

8. Meeting adjourned @ 4:30 PM.