EPC MINUTES (February 2, 2012)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm


The minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting were approved without amendment or objection.

The agenda for the day included a review of the EPC Humanities and Social Sciences Subcommittees charged with evaluating the course credit proposals submitted by departments in their respective areas and consideration of a proposal by the Perspectives program to increase the time of the evening class meeting to merit the sixth credit for the Philosophy and Theology courses in the Perspectives program.

HUMANITIES
(Timothy Duket presented the subcommittee report)

It was reported that, overall, departments in the Humanities generally did not use the course-to-credit transition as an opportunity to restructure their course offerings. The exceptions were Slavic and Eastern Languages and Theatre. Issues in these two departments along with Fine Arts—Studio merited discussion.

Slavic and Eastern Languages
The department recommended that all independent study courses (whether one, two, three, or more credits) would have the same course number SL388.0n with the “n” identifying different credit levels. The EPC agreed that this numeric treatment would, for example in the case of multiple 3-credit independent study courses run by different faculty members, compromise transparency in identifying the faculty members running the separate courses. The EPC recommended that SEL use three different course numbers to distinguish one, two and three-credit courses and, further, that independent study courses be limited to no more than three credits. Finally, the EPC discussed and agreed to communicate to SEL that the number of independent study courses be limited to two per student per semester and, if a student is taking two independent study courses, the courses must be on distinctly different topics as codified in contracts between student and faculty and filed with the department. The underlying EPC objective was identified as limiting a student’s independent study credits to no more than six per semester. (NB: Though the discussion focused on independent study, it was agreed that the above protocol would apply to all individually arranged courses including, for example, readings and research.)

Fine Arts --Studio
Independent student work I, II, III, and IV and Senior Project I and II, after consultation with the department, turned out to all be 3-credit courses and
therefore standard. The only substantive issue involved credits that appear to be given to students serving as teaching assistants. There was brief discussion that it is A&S policy not to give credit for TA positions. The context is that TAs are not to get credit as well as pay for their work. It was agreed that Studio Arts is to be so informed and that the EPC is willing to consider another proposal that is consistent with A&S policy.

**Theatre**
The only issue meriting discussion was the number of credits for the department’s “two week run crew labs.” The EPC approved one credit for the course. The department reported that the crew labs are supervised, graded, and limited in enrollment so that students are fully engaged in the production endeavor.

**Perspectives**
The EPC accepted the Perspectives Program proposal to increase its two-hour Wednesday evening sessions by 30 minutes thereby conforming, along with its regular 150-minute per week classes, to the criteria required for 6 credits. This followed some discussion as to whether the Perspectives courses should be treated as 5 or 6 credits, all with an eye on the difficulty of reconciling 5-credit Perspective courses with the current CORE requirement for 6 credits for Philosophy and Theology. It was decided that this issue would be best raised again during the University’s upcoming Core curriculum review. In the meantime, the EPC will monitor the use of the incremental 30 minutes to the Perspectives evening session.

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**
*(Akua Sarr presented the subcommittee report)*

**Psychology, Economics, Political Science, and International Studies**
These departments were noted to be in full compliance. The only substantive comments were: (1) Economics is converting its Statistics (EC151) and Econometrics (EC228) courses to 4 credits reflecting the addition of a required fourth hour one-credit lab to focus entirely on hands-on applications and statistical software, (2) the introductory International Studies course IS500 is being changed to four credits, and (3) Political Science is to be asked about credit levels for its thesis and internship courses, neither of which appears on the department’s course submission to the EPC.

**Sociology**
A number of issues were discussed regarding the Sociology Department’s course-to-credit submission to the EPC.

(1) SC664, titled College/Teaching Women’s Studies, is listed as a three-credit course meeting for two hours once each week. Further explanation had been requested but there has been no response to date.

(2) The department shows SC399 Scholar of the College courses having six credits in both fall and spring which is standard across departments. However, its Honors Thesis courses (SC555-SC556) are listed as three
3 credits in the fall and 6 credits in the spring. Further justification is required for the six-credit spring course, recognizing the possibility that this may reflect an honors thesis in the fall that is accelerated to Scholar of the College status in the spring.

(3) SC540 and SC541 are both presented as three-credit internship courses with a two-hour meeting time once each week. The EPC wants further information regarding the nature of the scholarly work involved beyond the internship experience.

Communications
The department’s proposal to the EPC indicates three credits for its internship. The EPC’s position is that one Pass/Fail credit is fine. A proposed three-credit internship requires additional justification. For example, it could be that the internship experience is somehow integrated into some scholarly work developed for the “internship” course.

History
Three issues were discussed.

(1) HS300, the gateway course to the major, is proposed for four credits but meets for three hours each week. It was determined that further justification is required for the fourth credit. The EPC discussed, in preliminary fashion, that two options might be acceptable: (i) a brief, required (15 minute) weekly meeting of each student with the professor or (ii) a required one-hour “lab” each week for writing and editing instruction. (NB: HS300 class sizes are limited to 15 students.)

(2) History’s Scholar of the College courses in the fall and spring semesters are individually proposed as eight credit courses. The EPC’s position is that six and six is appropriate and conforms to university-wide standards.

(3) Similarly, History’s thesis seminar is proposed for four credits in both the fall and spring semesters. History is to be informed that the university standard is three and three.

Further discussion of social science departments and issues was tabled until the next EPC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

SUBMITTED BY:

Frank Gollop,
Acting Secretary