

College of Arts and Sciences

Educational Policy Meeting

*Friday May 1st at 10 a.m.
McMahon Conference Room*

Present: Clare Dunsford, Robin Fleming, Paul Gray, Stuart Hecht, Bill Keane, Nick Lessin, Michael Martin, Tom McGuinness, Dennis Hale, Tim Mulvey, Iby Nathans, Clare O'Connor, Bill Petri, David Quigley, Harry Rosser, Akua Sarr, Rein Uritam, Barb Viechnicki

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. The minutes of March 12, 2009 meeting were approved.
2. Honors Subcommittee Report (Stuart Hecht)
 - a. A proposal for an Independent Major in American Studies was not approved.
 - b. The Independent Study Form is going to the Board of Chairs for approval. It was suggested that only one such 3-credit course be allowed per semester without approval of the Dean.
 - c. On the Grade Compression issue, Dean Quigley reported that conversations are underway with the Registrar, aiming to increase transparency and to provide departments with timely information regarding grade distributions.
3. Academic Affairs Subcommittee Report (Robin Fleming)
 - a. A proposed Psychology Minor was considered. Stuart Hecht moved that it be adopted. The motion passed unanimously, with the understanding that the department will communicate to Dean Quigley the resource implications of adopting the Minor over a 3-5 year time frame.
 - b. The Council of Deans has formally approved the adoption of Course to Credit. Clare Dunsford presented an extensive update (attached) including rule changes for the new system and some remaining questions. This document will be sent to departments.

It was pointed out that the potential for creativity and innovation in the development of courses under the new system would not be fully realized until 2014 after the last students using the course system will have graduated. It is also desirable that guidelines for assessing the new system should be developed in advance, so that the EPC would have a basis for evaluating proposals for operating the credit system. Dean Quigley remarked that the EPC's decisions concerning the new system should strike a balance between the common good of the university and the interests of individual departments. Harry Rosser stressed the need for flexibility in making

decisions about the credit system, noting that some skepticism among faculty remains.

4. The following items were suggested for the EPC agenda for 2009-2010:
 - a. A proposal that the minimum GPA for Dean's List be raised will be referred to the Honors Subcommittee.
 - b. Discussion of assessment issues, an initiative that will involve Chairs and Directors of Undergraduate Studies in all departments.
 - c. A need for reliable data on where our graduates go immediately after they leave BC.
 - d. Discussion of possible limits on students having multiple majors and minors.
 - e. Assessment of the value of Minors in general.
 - f. Developing a program of education and information about the move from course to credit.
 - g. Development of the infrastructure for the move from course to credit (Academic Affairs Subcommittee).

Dean Quigley announced that there will be 15-20 new faculty searches authorized for next year. He also asked EPC members to nominate strong people to serve on this body next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul S. Gray