

College of Arts and Sciences – Educational Policy Committee

Gasson 105 – Thursday September 22, 2011

Present: David Quigley, Bill Petri, Tom McGuinness, Michael Moore, Rudy Hon, Clare Dunsford, Kathy Dunn, Beth Kowaleski-Wallace, David Vanderhooft, C-K Cheung, Tim Duket, Frank Gollop

David Quigley called the meeting to order at 4pm.

I. Dean's Announcements and Introduction: Dean Quigley welcomed the new faculty members, noting that students will be joining us in the future. The dean also noted that committee assignments this year will be divisional (Science, Humanities and Social Science) to address the course credit approval process and that an Appeals Committee would be assembled on an Ad Hoc basis.

II. Minor in Management for A&S students. The Organizational Studies Department in CSOM submitted a proposal to offer a minor for A&S students in Management and Leadership. This 6 course minor has two required courses, and 4 electives, all from the Organizational Studies Department. There was a long and spirited conversation ranging from the academic rigor of this minor to concerns about the true value-added for A&S students. The final vote: 9 in favor of the proposal, 3 abstaining. Highlights from the discussion:

- 96 credits from A&S courses would still be required for a degree with an A&S major.
- Concern that promoting minors comes at the expense of more worthy activities (such as research and thesis writing.)
- Concern over-estimating the value of the minor in terms of potential jobs; it was noted that this is not a minor in finance or accounting- practical fields that could affect job opportunities.
- Concern that students would choose this minor over a more academic rigorous minor in Economics.
- It was also the opinion that this is a "soft" minor, in terms of course content – and again, not really good preparation for an intended career in business.
- All did not share these concerns. There is much interest from students (and their parents) in opportunities to branch out beyond A&S.
- CSOM does not have the resources to offer minors in finance and accounting – disciplines more directly related to business concerns.
- It was also noted that some students in A&S, especially those with an interest in non-profits, will benefit from this course of study.
- Before the vote, there was discussion as to whether the EPC should review the syllabi of the required courses for the minor; it was determined that there would be no added value to such an analysis. This is a CSOM course of study, and the responsibility for content lies with the CSOM department.
- There was also some question as to why the A&S EPC was involved; this was explained as a necessity if the minor was going to be applied to an A&S degree.

III. Policies and Procedures for Determining Course Credits. Dean Quigley outlined the strategy to certify course for the appropriate course credits, following the previously proposed process and following Federal guideline for credit determination

- The EPC will reach out to the Undergraduate Program Directors or Department Chairs to provide descriptions and justifications for the assigned credits to their courses.
- It was determined that mid October was a reasonable deadline for the materials to be generated and forwarded to the EPC and the working subcommittees.
- Dean Quigley noted that the large majority of current 3 credit lecture courses and 1 credit laboratories will pass the federal guidelines and be a straightforward process.
- The non-standard courses will need some direction for determining their assigned credits; key question regards the relationship between less meeting time and outside work.
- More assigned work does not translate in to an additional credit; one more credit should correlate with additional faculty contact or extra work should increase the value of the in class faculty contact.
- Some programs like Honors, PULSE and Perspective will be more challenging and are expected to take longer to finish.

- Undergraduate 3 credit seminar courses are expected to meet for 150 minutes each week; Student Services will work to make time blocks available in specific seminar classrooms.
- The EPC will need to establish consistent policies regarding credit approval and the process of appeal; the Dean will have the final say.

IV. Committee Assignments: EPC members will be grouped with their discipline (Natural Science, Social Science and Humanities) and charged with the initial review of documents from the departments.

- David will contact the UG Department administrators regarding the credit justification process.
- A draft of the note will be circulated among EPC members for comments.
- The email will also include a template for listing courses.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

Submitted by
Kathy Dunn