

**Minutes – Educational Policy Committee  
September 25, 2008**

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

David Quigley called the meeting to order at ~4:10. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with modifications.

Representatives from each EPC subcommittee summarized the previous year's activities. Clare O'Connor summarized the activities of the Academic Affairs subcommittee during the previous year.

- The committee completed its study of the Islamic Civilization and Societies major, and the full EPC voted to approve the major, which is currently in its inaugural year.
- The Academic Affairs subcommittee also advanced a community research seminar sponsored by LSOE to the full EPC for approval as a UN course.
- The subcommittee has met on several occasions to discuss a LSOE proposal for an inclusive education minor. (Inclusive education is an existing minor for LSOE students.) The LSOE feels that the minor would be of interest to A&S students who enter programs such as Teach for America. The minor was discussed at several subcommittee meetings last year and has been revised. The proposed minor now has the number of courses required for an A&S minor, but the committee still feels that the practicum portion of the minor is not well-defined and it is not clear that adequate supervision will be occurring. Paul Gray raised an additional concern that the minor lacked foundational courses in education, which are commonly expected for other minors. Students felt that there would be considerable interest in this minor among A&S students, and it was suggested that TNE be contacted to see how the minor would fit into TNE's overall plan. The proposal will be sent back to David Scanlon in LSOE for modifications.
- The subcommittee also reviewed a request from the Geology and Biology Depts. for an environmental science minor. The full EPC was concerned with how the proposed minor fits into the existing Environmental Studies minor, and the entire EPC decided to review the Environmental Studies program early in this academic year. Akua has met with Eric Strauss to discuss the kinds of information that the EPC would like for the review.

Stuart Hecht summarized the activities of the Honors subcommittee.

- The committee worked on a number of independent major proposals. The subcommittee ensures that there is sufficient structure in proposed majors and that the major is not replicating existing majors. Less than 10 applications were reviewed last year. Of these, four were fully realized and two were tentatively approved by the full EPC. Because of their interdisciplinary nature, students pursuing independent majors are expected to graduate with a single major. The deadline for independent major proposals is March 1 of sophomore year.

- The group discussed requirements for independent study classes, since these vary widely in requirements across campus. Following the lead of the Theater Department, the committee developed a draft contract that outlines work to be done during the semester. Both student and instructor sign the contract, which is then forwarded to the department chair for approval. This contract would have to be modified to some degree by individual departments. This discussion will continue during the coming academic year.
- The committee is interested in revisiting the issue of grade inflation this coming academic year. No definitive steps were taken after Bob Murphy's committee submitted their report on grade inflation several years ago.

The appeals subcommittee had no issues to resolve during the last academic year.

The discussion turned to tasks for the upcoming academic year.

- The EPC will review the Environmental Studies program and study the proposed Environmental Science minor after the requested materials are obtained.
- The EPC will also be asked for advice on the implementation of new graduation requirements based on credit hours, rather than number of courses. Students matriculating in the fall of 2010 will follow the new requirement system. Departments will have to tailor requirements for their own majors, so there will be considerable variability between departmental graduation requirements.
- Some concerns have been raised about university liability in situations where students transport other students to university-sanctioned activities in private vehicles. A&S may need to institute a policy on student driving.

Dean Quigley encouraged EPC members to step forward with ideas for the EPC and to assume leadership roles in committee work. The Dean would like the EPC to be an active committee that provides a voice for faculty and students.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15

Respectfully submitted,  
Clare O'Connor