

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Week 8: Tuesday, Jan.28, 2014

Members in attendance: Ellen Hay, Taddy Kalas, Reuben Heine, Tim Bloser, Ann Ericson, Dave Dehnel, Umme Al-wazedi, Greg Domski, Shara Stough, Darien Marion-Burton, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Liesl Fowler.

Others present: Shanan Pettifer and Mike Scarlett

EPC Meeting started at 4:35 pm

- I. Minutes from Jan. 21, 2014: Moved by Ellen Hay, second by Umme Al-wazedi, all in favor, minutes approved with date change.
- II. Consent Agenda from General Education: None
- III. Old Business: English major revision. Joe McDowell responded to our questions about the assessment of the revised major by pointing to the current department assessment, which entails collecting from ENGL 270 & SI papers. They will continue that and have a rubric to for the papers collected. Dave Dehnel will ask how they will proceed given that ENGL 270 is one of the courses that is being phased out.
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Online Courses - Mike Scarlett lead a discussion of online teaching.

Positive aspects of online teaching:

- Online requires everyone to participate and is good for involving the reticent. It is harder for students to fly under the radar.
- Flexibility due to asynchronism.
- Online environment can be good for group because of the capacity for monitoring and feedback. It is easy to observe quality and substance of chat.
- When comparing same class face to face vs. online, his class seemed to perform similarly. Research is all over the map.
- Open environment for students to ask other students questions.
- Group projects can be accomplished through Google docs.
- The emphasis is on writing: students have to articulate their ideas.
- Online lecture allows a student to pause if they didn't catch something.

Some pitfalls of online teaching:

- Not true that you can do everything online as you can face to face.
- Academic integrity is a big issue: making sure same student taking test. Face to face relationships make for better accountability. It would be best to know the students first before offering online course to them.
- Doesn't work well for all students. Students tend to rate them lower.
- Setting up the course is an investment of time up front.
- Hard for professor teaching to escape online courses, students have constant contact.
- When you have face to face classes any questions can be answered immediately, where online questions can be delayed.
- Technology allows synchronous sessions, but coordination issues are common.
- Labor intensive: Lots of reading for professors.

Main thing to look for in a proposal for online teaching:

- We need to think about evaluations. There are some best practices and rubrics.
- An advantage: "observing" can be done later.
- How do we get feedback from faculty in the pilot?
- Connection between students and professor: how does the professor humanize the environment?
- Does the professor understand how the online environment impacts their learning goals and assessment? Are formative assessments being used?
- 20 minutes for lectures is best
- E-office hours.
- With pilot online course, Mike recommended for professor to keep a diary.

Next meeting will invite Todd Cleveland and Steve Kline to talk about their online proposals before voting and will continue discussion.

Liesl Fowler asking about waivers for requirements in contract majors, EPC being the effective department chair. Chip Marrow has a student for whom a course in the major will not be offered. Chip can email David Dehnel about substituting a class and maybe EPC can handle online instead of taking meeting time.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 5:36p.m.

Next EPC meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014 @ 4:30 in Old Main Room #127