

# EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

## WEEK 8: Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013; in Old Main, Room #127

**Members in attendance:** Ellen Hay, Taddy Kalas, Reuben Heine, Tim Bloser, Ann Ericson, Dave Dehnel, Umme Al-wazedi, Greg Domski, Mike Reisner, Catherine McDermott, Darien Marion-Burton, Liv Reinacher, Jeff Ratliff-Crain

**Others present:** Shanan Pettifer

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Committee Chair Dave Dehnel

**I. Minutes from Oct. 1, 2013:** Moved by Ann Ericson, Second by Umme Al-wazedi and all approved after correction made.

**II. Consent Agenda from General Education:** None

**III. Old Business:** None

**IV. New Business:** Discussion of Division Meetings on Certificate Program and Online Courses. Dave Dehnel reserved clickers for Senate meeting with help from Patrick Crawford. Dave will lead discussion at Senate meeting on Oct. 17, 2013.

Reports from Division Meetings:

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

#### A. Certificate Program

- Certificate language not evolved sufficiently
- Question about certificates, how they will be perceived
- Concerned we don't proliferate certificates too much

#### B. Online Courses

- If we do it, do it well
- Where are we at with the facilities, capacities with IT and technology
- Concerned not to undermine current curriculum
- Possibility for summer experiment seemed logical

### **NATURAL SCIENCES**

#### A. Online Courses

- No one wanted to reject online courses
- Need Sunset Clause if it's deemed not successful, up to faculty to decide what is and isn't successful
- Concentrated on Questions 1 and 3
- It seemed majority felt strongly that there should be some sort of re-approval process. Maybe starting at department level, then should still go through EPC or Senate. If online courses go through should be subjected to review
- Board of Trustees expressed to carefully explore Online courses & technology

#### B. Certificate Program

- Feedback through email
- Non degree certificate brought up several times, interdisciplinary certificate, skilled focus certificate
- International student's certificate, liking it to a mini diploma. Wondering if it's like that, would it have anything to do with accreditation and maybe bringing up legal issues
- Relationship between certificate and minors
- Overall response, most on the fence but not necessarily shutting certificate program out

## **HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION**

### **A. Certificate Program**

- What's the motivation for certificate program? Some from the division had heard the motivation was the driving force for the idea making students more attractive to employers
- No standardization anywhere when looking at handout of certificate programs at other schools. Would it be better to wait for a few years and see how things pan out and if it turns out there is some standardization emerging we could implement then.
- If motivation isn't primarily to give employers something to show a certain skill, then how about when it gets close to graduation have student take a look at the courses they took, write up a paper justifying why these courses are important and write a reflection of what they got out of them and what it meant to them. Then they would receive some form of certificate that was approved by a board.
- Another concern was over work load, who would serve on committees, who would administrate these programs, no matter what model. Will take a lot of work, piled onto what we are already doing
- Real concerns about proliferation, people in this division concerned if too many certificates may take away from students double majoring or minoring. This was a major concern.

### **B. Online Courses**

- Echo staffing worries and technical capability
- Approval process split in this division. EPC should treat as new courses or like a service learning to be approved. Others see it not as a new course but a new method of teaching.
- One concern shared was where origin of online came from; a faculty body was not involved in deciding but by administration. Real concern about origin of this pilot program and why EPC or some other body wasn't involved interracial parts of beginning pilot program.
- Overall most people didn't think this pilot program particularly objectionable, most thought probably worthwhile.

## **FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

### **A. Online Courses**

- Summer for these who want to do it is fine
- EPC should undertake some sort of review. Maybe similar with what happens with International Study Programs when they change courses or faculty.
- Concern about whether we have the technology to support it.

### **B. Certificate Program**

- Certificates have been around in grad schools of music for years & years, designating a special expertise. They are highly experiential.
- The division saw possibilities for bringing in people from community to certificate programs. On the other hand these people would introduce a dynamic that's very different from what we usually have in a classroom and may not be as prepared as our students.

## **LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

### **A. Online Courses**

- Negativity on online learning, not consistent with mission.
- Some interested in asynchronous vs. synchronous definition.
- Some interested in summer program, some not aware that right now we don't control what they do and transfer in.
- Online learning makes us look like Phoenix and certificates makes us look voc-tech.
- Dip our toes in it to show we aren't behind the times.
- Concern was expressed over the erosion of faculty governance.
- Is it in the Strategic Plan but being in summer might be ok

- Do we send a signal to students about what kind of courses aren't important with courses available online in the summer.
- If GEN ED is offered online during the summer, what is that going to do to small departments who depend on their GEN ED offerings
- We already have a much greater need to know how to use technology, why are we thinking doing entirely online courses.

#### B. Certificate Program

- Is there a way to create certificate that connects to LP's?

### **BUSINESS AND EDUCATION**

#### A. Online Courses

- As a group the division has no problem with online summer and even asynchronous ones.
- Don't want to lose opportunity of that potential revenue stream.
- Someone felt there was pressure from board, expressed at the board meeting, to do more with online.
- How are we going to test these students?
- Not all disciplines are suited to such instruction.
- Want to do it right, people need to be trained, need to have good tech. If you do it right enormous amount of work for the faculty
- Expect to have lower evaluations by students in that kind of environment
- Limits – we have limits on what classes you can take in the summer, that could be our limit.
- Important for EPC to be involved in review process of those classes offered online.
- Tuition cost – Same cost for what students are charged for other summer classes. Who is going to want to take online course for that kind of tuition?

#### B. Certificate Program

- No negative comments as long as it's done right.
- Very important for International students to get some sort of certificate.
- Brought up potential certificate for grant writing.
- All in all positive about certificate programs being careful not to offer too many certificates.
- More meaningful language for certificate, make it Augustana owned.

Continued discussion on what questions to present to the Senate and how to present them.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 5:33 p.m.

Next EPC meeting, Tuesday, Oct.22, 2013 @ 4:30; Old Main, Room #127