

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEEK 5: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013; in Old Main, Room #127

Members in attendance: Ellen Hay, Taddy Kalas, Tim Bloser, Ann Ericson, Dave Dehnel, Umme Al-wazedi, Greg Domski, Cameron Onumah, Danilo Bruno, Catherine McDermott, Liv Reinacher, Jeff Ratliff-Crain

Others present: Shanan Pettifer

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Committee Chair Dave Dehnel

I. Minutes from September 17, 2013: Approval moved by Catherine McDermott, Second by Umme Al-wazedi

II. Consent Agenda from General Education: None

III. Old Business: None

IV. New Business:

A. Online Courses

1. Report from the Dean's meeting soliciting interest in online course development (Umme Al-wazedi and Greg Domski attended)

- Reason even considering online courses is faculty has approached Margaret Farrar wanting to teach online courses
- Would like to set up joint enrollment with Luther College for summer online courses
- This will take place with a pilot program being very selective, starting with 3 or 4 courses, based on student needs
- Concerns were what kind of platforms to use? One year long program to apply, don't necessarily have to propose for this summer, can take time and propose for next summer. Based on this first year, it wouldn't be considered success or fail
- Asynchronous instruction would be a feature of these courses important because it suits students working odd hours
- How many expressed interest? At meeting there were around 12, thinking online courses potential is a positive thing

2. General Discussion

- Students will take online courses somewhere, why not Augie? Some students would rather take courses through Augie (rather than summer courses taken elsewhere) with professors they are comfortable with. Also, this looks better on the transcript.
- Why would students take online classes over summer? Some students need the credits and/or are doing double or triple majors.
- With respect to online courses meeting requirements, the process by which transfer courses meet learning perspectives was discussed – the syllabus from a course is turned in to Susan Granet for her to look over. There is a book full of ones that have already been approved.
- Limits on online courses? Would Augie online courses be in addition to the 9 credits of online coursework that currently can be transferred in? (A rule that is difficult to enforce.) Students would have to be enrolled full time.
- Online courses can be just as much work as a normal class. Will it cost the same per credit hour as if attending at Augie? Not sure how faculty will be compensated.

- Looks like online courses will start next summer. If a course is already on books, could it be taught as an online course without review by EPC? We should assert that online courses come thru faculty governance, being like a new course and proposed accordingly.
- A Concern raised by a student is about the cost, would families really want to pay \$1400 credit hour for an online course? Could there be discount for online courses? Most schools do not offer discount for online courses.
- A positive to online courses would be for a course you can't get anywhere else and for students who need classes to graduate.
- Online courses would go along with Augustana's strategic plan.
- Some courses would do better online than in traditional setting but figuring out the difference would be a difficult task. Some kind of review process to determine this would need to be decided on.
- May need to present information for informal faculty discussion like Friday conversation, for online courses as well as Certificate Program. Presenting to Division meeting or faculty senate for some kind of guidance may be a good idea also.
- A prerequisite class arises as a good candidate for an online course.
- Would there be some courses offered only online? It was answered as they haven't gotten that far yet but classes would have to go through proper governance.
- Question brought up if EPC committee should still approve online courses even though existing course had been approved.
- With pilot program how does college assess if a course would make a good online course? Faculty groups would work together with instructional technology as well as each other to develop courses and would have to demonstrate the same learning outcomes as traditional classes. Need to define what would be a good online class vs. a bad one.
- Summer school versions of regular classes are already a very different experience: moving from a 10 week course with 20 students to a 4 week course with 4 students can be a dramatically different.
- Would a survey of faculty opinion be helpful?

B. Continued Discussion of Certificate Programs

1. David Dehnel handed out a document based on Liesls' "Conversation Starter", with reference to Certificate programs. Committee members discussed and reviewed this document, changes have been noted by David Dehnel and will be presented to the committee for feedback and discussion.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 5:28 p.m.
Next EPC meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013 @ 4:30; Old Main, Room #127