

EDUCATIONAL POLICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

WEEK 2; Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, 2013; in Founders' Hall Basement Meeting Room

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

Others Present: Shanan Pettifer

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Committee Chair Dave Dehnel.

I. No minutes from previous meeting.

II. Old Business: **None**

III. New Business: Continue discussion of two long term major projects, Senior Inquiry and Certificates.

A. Senior Inquiry: Preliminary study completed last year by sub-committee of EPC, arrived at suggestions, questions and procedural notions on a full blown assessment on SI's right now at the college.

- Have experience now with SI's
- Each department does their own thing
- To reflect on experiences as a college on SI's, what's it all about and address questions.

Structure to have series of sub-committee, one each surrounding the questions summarized in III. a, b and c in the report adopted by this committee last spring. EPC members are asked to consider what you may be willing to focus on. 3 EPC members to each a, b and c.

B. Certificates: Strategic Plan Issues

- How does college address the connection between the students education experience with future career
- How can curriculum respond to potential student body future wants, how would new curriculum meet their desires
- Alternative credential to Major and Minors
- Certificate all over the board. Particular interest, how different from Minor, where is the value for the students
- Key question, maybe start out with handful of certificates to start
- Core question, how do certificates fit with who Augustana is, maybe not adding on but capitalizing on what Augustana is already doing
- Would we offer certificates to others beside our own students
- Is there evidence of any kind that certificates helps increase job opportunity
- Question if certificates would actually help students or just away to attract students to Augustana? Possible not a big seller to attract students
- Students very actively involved, could provide some level of quality (ex: set of experience, volunteering, quality control opportunity)
- Does it help with job search? If student is getting English Major and wants to work at firm, firm doesn't supply skill training any more but having a certificate could provide pathway to obtain skill.
- Quality control, across different colleges, has nothing standardized
- Difference between offering certificate vs. having student give employer highlighted facts of courses they took along with Study Abroad experiences and or extra language (strengthens employment opportunity)
- Difference between Minor and Certificate? Minor may need narrow sampling, where certificate more skill focused. Some schools hard to tell difference
- Possible skill based certificate programs: Certificates are being used when minor in Foreign Language not completed by taking proficiency exam, also for and Accounting for CPA candidates. Also Augustana GIS **courses** (Computer side/Field of Geography), have been sought by area professionals in the past, but most take at Western now to obtain certificate.
- Another thought for international students to use certificate instead of hodge podge transcripts
- Experiential component, where getting a chance to practice skills or ideas and possible obtain 15-18 credits for certificate.
- Certificate should not duplicate Major or Minor but should be different kind of experience

- Reason students may add a minor to their major are they like the classes, makes them more marketable and they have strong interest in subject
- List of colleges with certificates was derived from strictly undergraduate, liberal arts, no graduate program and there were not a lot of them. Guidelines for certificates are very minimal with colleges across the country
- Global Studies certificate is most developed to review
- Need to propose set of rules for certificates, possible circulate guidelines and submit to faculty, then go from there

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

Next Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013 @ 4:30p.m., Founders' Hall Basement
Meeting Room