

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Tuesday March 13, 2012; in Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)

Members in attendance: Greg Domski, Kristen Douglas, Rob Elflin, Ann Ericson, Liesl Fowler, Ellen Hay, Taddy Kalas, Darien Marion-Burton, Catherine McDermott, Kathleen Nannenhorn, Cameron Onumah, Mark Vincent, Michael Wolf, Joe Wood, Joe Bright, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson

Others Present: Gail Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Committee Chair Mike Wolf.

**I. Minutes** from March 6, 2012 meeting:

Motion to approve: Rob Elflin                      seconded: Joe Bright  
All Approved

**II. Old Business:**

**December 14, 2010**

**Further Discussion to be noted on future Agenda:**

What is the actual charge of the EPC Committee; Are the EPC guidelines being met; Constitutional responsibility of faculty to be in charge of curriculum; Proactive behavior /not reactive; Certificate Programs; Concern with new instructor course syllabus development

**January 10, 2012 New Business B.**

Mark Salisbury, Augustana Institutional Research, compiled a document of learning objectives from existing Augustana documents. He is requesting input from college committees that will help guide our assessments. This is an opportunity to have a role in supporting and improving goals for the college.

**Discussion:** see previous meetings for listing of topics discussed

**Action:** EPC will continue discussion and will work to submit a document to be forwarded for discussion and review by faculty, divisions, faculty forum & faculty senate by the end of the academic 2011-2012 year.

Feb. 7, 2012 - Additional information submitted at EPC meeting: In response to the request for input from Mark Salisbury, January 10, 2012, Dr. Ellen Hay submitted a document with additional information for student learning goals and goals for the college.

**NOTE:** An Assessment for Improvement Committee has been formed by the Dean (chaired by Ellen Hay) to help move this discussion forward this term.

**III. New Business**

- A. Consent Agenda from GenEd:  
D suffix for ARHI 368 (American Art)  
New course: LSFY 103; The Gay and Lesbian Community after WW II (Bengtson)

EPC Committee Chair will forward to Faculty Senate

- B. Four-Year Graduation Guarantee policy proposal

President Bahls is often asked by families if Augustana College has a 4-year graduation agreement like some public institutions offer. At this time his response is “no.” He would like to respond with “yes.” EPC was asked to offer discussion of the proposed policy.

- Augustana first private institution in Illinois to offer 4-Year Graduation Guarantee
- What is the appeal for students?
- *Graduation Agreement* may discourage double major and minors
- Appears constraining and counter productive

- Will student feel locked in?
- Concern with student changing major
- Currently students are not to declare major until spring term of their first year – This proposed agreement is at end of first week of fall term courses
- Will student feel pressure to sign contract? Will this cause FY student unnecessary issues?
- What about students that have slow starts
- Augustana currently encourages students to explore
- Until 2004, *Augustana Promise* was offered, May relook at reinstituting this promise
- How will this affect foreign terms and special opportunity for students?
- May have an adverse effect on small departments which gain majors throughout the years
- Is this a recruiting tool? / Who are we attempting to recruit? / How does this agreement improve our recruitment?  
Consider using statistics to inform students regarding Augustana retention rate compared to other institutions and student completion in four years, not a contract
- Term #4 of contract - concern for impact on faculty Advisor  
When does this become faculty governance?  
Recommend Advisors be well trained and informed about commitment of contract  
How will Advisor recommend and advise student to break contract if student adds additional major, minor or change of documented major?  
How will FY Advisor know enough information about all majors?  
How will student/advisor meetings be recorded and monitored?  
Will parents be informed of broken contracts?
- Will contract be noted on WebAdvisor?
- Most Augustana students graduate in 4 years. We should talk about the advantages of having the students explore more and how that makes us unique. We want the students to grow, change and develop while attending Augustana. As long as the student is responsible and committed to an Augustana education, the student will graduate in four years.

No Action required

C. Contract Major Proposal (Logic) from Jacob Gaier

Discussion:

- Request student to submit list of future courses and when they are offered
- What courses has the student already completed?
- Will student complete 60 credits at Augustana after approval of Contract Major
- What is the perception of post grad institutions when reviewing a contract major
- Recommendation to have student appear before EPC to answer questions
- Consider student visit with Registrar for proposed courses and offerings
- Recommendation to complete AS&D petition
- Who will be the primary faculty advisor?

Action: EPC Chair will contact Jacob Gaier to request attending EPC meeting.

No action

Motion to adjourn meeting 5:20 p.m.: All adjourned

Next Meeting: 4:30 p.m., March 20, 2012  
Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)