

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday March 20, 2012; in Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)

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

Others Present: Steven Bahls, Pareena Lawrence, Gail Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Committee Chair Mike Wolf.

I. Minutes from March 13, 2012 meeting:

Motion to approve: Darien Marion-Burton 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

March 13, 2012 C. Contract Major Proposal (Logic) from Jacob Gaier

Discussion:

- Request student to submit listed courses and when they are offered
- What courses has the student 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 faculty advisor?

Action: EPC Chair has contacted Jacob Gaier to request revising proposal & attending EPC meeting.

III. New Business

A. Consent Agenda from GenEd: nothing

B. Academic Calendar 2014-15

Request to include Labor Day Holiday

Committee approved the Academic Calendar for 2014-15 with the addition of Labor Day Holiday

C. Academic Calendar 2015-16

Committee approved the Academic Calendar for 2015-16 with the addition of Labor Day Holiday

D. Meeting with Dean Lawrence & President Bahls concerning Four-Year Graduation Guarantee proposal (see last week's agenda/minutes).

President Steven Bahls and Dean and Chief Academic Officer Pareena Lawrence were present to comment on the proposed Four-Year Graduation Guarantee.

President Bahls had visited with the Cabinet and Executive Leadership Board to discuss a Four-Year Graduation Guarantee proposal.

- Marketing tool to promote the Augustana experience and education while completing in four years

- Augustana continues to want their students to explore areas of education
- A shared responsibility between the student, parent and college
- Proposal implemented to answer parent concerns about Augustana cost of education
- Concern of students receiving proper advising
- Have the proposal ready in time for incoming freshmen class of 2012
- Currently, waivers have been granted to students when they can identify their failure to graduate due to the fault of Augustana.
- Students would sign an agreement (& declare a major) first week of fall term of their first year.
Time would be spent at Orientation explaining the contract
This program will be offered as an option / not pushed on families
Signing of Guarantee to be at a formal meeting
- The contract would note the “intended” major at time of orientation
A change in intended major would nullify Guarantee
- Tracking students who sign contract is a necessity / Assoc. Dean signature will be required
- If the ability to manage this program becomes a problem it will be revisited
- Marketed as “Augustana reimplements the “Augustana Promise” ”

Questions and Concerns:

- Add “Honors Program” with the First Year sequence on Guarantee
- Managing program if a large number of students elect this plan
- Department advisors ready and have proper information regarding availability of courses
- Consideration of parent / student conflict if Guarantee is not fulfilled
What about student retention
Concern with students declaring Chemistry, Education, double majors completing course requirements within four years

Action:

- Recommendation to add the following statement to Guarantee:
Change the last sentence of #4: “If I change my major...” to “If you don’t follow the intended plan...”
- Add new point similar to:
“Many-perhaps most-students change majors or declare additional majors at some point during their college experience and the overwhelming majority of such students graduate within four years at Augustana. Frankly, we believe this is an important part of the college experience. Nonetheless, I understand that changing my major and/or adding additional majors could necessitate additional terms of study. This is most likely to be the case when such changes happen after a student’s second full year of enrollment.”
- Attach a preamble indicating:
statistics of students graduating from Augustana within four years
percentage of students changing major declaration
Augustana retention rate

President Bahls asked the students present, to consider becoming a member of the President’s Advisory Council. The focus of the council will be such things as advising and how we can improve the student experience and how can we eliminate student frustrations. Send an email to President Bahls if interested. The meeting is held 3 times a year, at the President’s home.

Motion to adjourn meeting 5:30 p.m.: All adjourned
Next Meeting: 4:30 p.m., March 27, 2012
Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)