

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday October 11, 2011; in Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)

Members in attendance: Tim Bloser, Joe Bright, Rob Elflin, Ann Ericson, Liesl Fowler, Bob Haak, Ellen Hay, Kristi Nabhan-Warren, Cameron Onumah, Michael Wolf

Others Present: Gail Parsons

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

I. Minutes and Summary of Action from October 4, 2011 meeting:

Motion to approve: Joe Bright seconded: Ellen Hay

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

On-line course discussion:

The information below has been compiled from EPC meetings:

November 30, 2010, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, August 30, September 6, 2011. Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept 27, Oct. 4 (See Minutes in EPC archives)

Oct. 4, 2011

B. Policy statement on Blended Learning & On-line courses (discussion & resolution?)

Continued discussion:

Action: Request EPC members consider the information discussed and blend the concerns for a philosophical or policy statement to be submitted to Senate.

ACTION: EPC Chair has blended submitted statements and sent to committee members for review.

C. Contract minors (we have contract majors; should we have contract minors?)

See: [Home](#) > [Academics](#) > [Registrar](#) > Forms

http://www.augustana.edu/Documents/registrar/Contract_Major_Check_List.pdf

Discussion:

- Follow contract major requirements as noted in catalog
- Credits will be required as stated in completion of a minor
- Must have support of Minor Advisor
- Possibly add a 1-cr Reflective paper component (see Geology Dept. minor)

Action: Committee member Ellen Hay will review other institutions for contract minors and report to EPC Committee.

Action: Ellen Hay submitted sample contract minor requirements from Beloit College, Mt. Holyoke, Allegheny College, Knox College and St. Scholastica.

Suggested contract Minor Requirements:

Application and approval process similar to contract major

Requirements:

- 1) At Least 21 credits from 2 or more departments at least nine of which are at the 300-400 level
- 2) Must be approved prior to the beginning of the 10th term at the college

3) ~~No more than six credits may fulfill AGES requirements~~

4) Must include a one-credit independent study that culminates in a paper and presentation integrating the various disciplines of study and reflecting on their intersection.

Discussion:

- Recommendation to title contract Major and Minor – “Self-designed” (change existing Contract Major to be designated “Self-designed Major”)
- Supporting the addition of a “Self-designed” minor would encourage students to be proactive and encourage in-depth study
- Similar process for approval as defined in (contract) major
- Review and reconsider requirement #3 listed in “Suggested contract Minor Requirements” listed above
- Minimum G.P.A. established (2.5 ?)
- Use of department code, not subject code
- No more than 6 credits may apply to student’s major
- No more than 40 credits may have the same subject code designation (catalog Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree)
- No more than 4 3-credit courses (12 credits) in a department
- No more than 6 credits may apply to student’s major
- Majority of credits taken after minor declared

Action: Prepare a recommendation to consider “Self-designed Minor”

D. Staffing of course issues (What credentials are needed in order to teach courses at Augie?)

Discussion:

- Higher Learning Commission states one degree above student required
- What are Augustana’s Institutional standards

Action:

- EPC to propose a statement for considering standards set for staffing
- Proposal to submit developed EPC statement sent to Division or Departments for support and recommendations for staffing requirements to be considered for standards at Augustana

III. New Business

A. Consent Agenda for GenEd material: nothing as of 10/7/11

B. Finish old business of distance & blended-learning draft EPC draft 10.5.2011)

From the Faculty Handbook:

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE (EPC)

Function a. To recommend changes in educational policies concerning instructional methods, testing and grading, graduation requirements, course of instruction and instructional procedure.

In the light of function (a) above, EPC offers the following philosophical statement regarding technology-mediated modes of instruction:

Augustana College values and encourages pedagogies that utilize unmediated, human interaction as the primary mode of instruction. At the same time, the College respects the academic freedom of its instructors to choose and implement pedagogies that most effectively achieve their instructional goals. Furthermore, the faculty of Augustana College recognize that technological developments have changed the way human beings interact, that current and future generations of students will make use of these developments, and that instruction making use of technology-mediated interactions may be efficacious and beneficial for student learning.

The faculty of Augustana College support innovative pedagogies (e.g., blended learning or web-facilitated) in which the *majority* of faculty-student and student-student interaction takes place in a synchronous manner and is unmediated. We encourage the use of new technology, both inside and outside of the classroom, in order to enhance student performance while maintaining the student-faculty personal contact that sets

Augustana apart from other colleges and universities; however, we strongly discourage the abuse of such pedagogies and technologies ~~if they are utilized solely to lessen~~ for the purpose of lessening the workload of the students and/or instructors.

The faculty of Augustana College do not endorse long-distance, largely asynchronous instructional methods (e.g., correspondence courses) in which there is little or no human interaction or in which the majority of student-faculty and student-student interaction is mediated by technology (e.g., computer chats/Skype/Facetime). This mode of instruction is not in keeping with the culture or mission of the College, which places great emphasis on developing the mind, body and spirit of our students through personal, face-to-face relationships ~~with instructors, coaches and ministry staff~~.

As a reminder, the faculty policy on acceptance of distance education coursework *for transfer* as it appears in the Augustana catalog is as follows:

Correspondence or distance coursework: A maximum of nine semester credits earned through distance education offered by an accredited undergraduate institution may be applied toward the Bachelor of Arts degree. Distance education coursework may not be applied toward fulfillment of the foreign language requirement. Distance education includes, but is not limited to, the following: internet courses, stored media courses (e.g., videotape, CD ROM and DVD), interactive TV courses (2-way audio/2-way video), open broadcast TV courses, and correspondence courses.

ACTION: EPC Chair will forward the above proposal to the Department Chairs meeting, including faculty members Stephen Klien, Robert Tallitsch, John Delaney and Ryan White, in consideration for their response to questions and answers from the EPC committee. The proposal will then be forwarded to Senate.

Motion to approve: Joe Bright
All Approved

Seconded: Rob Elflin

C. Finish old business of self-designed minor draft

Recommendation: **Augustana Self-Designed Minor Requirements**

Application and approval process similar to contract major

Students requesting approval ~~must have a 2.5 overall GPA~~ should have an overall 3.0 GPA. Students with between an overall 2.5 -3.0 will be considered upon academic review. At least 21 credits from two or more departments, at least nine of which are at the 300-400 level.

- 1) No more than twelve credits from one department.
- 2) Must be approved prior to ~~the beginning of the 10th term~~ earning 90 credits at the college with the majority of the coursework taken after the approval of the minor.
- 3) No more than six credits may overlap the student's major or other minor.
- 4) No more than six credits can be transferred from another institution.
- 5) Must include a one-credit independent study that culminates in a paper and presentation integrating the various disciplines of study and reflecting on their intersection.

Motion to amend: Tim Bloser
All approved amendment

Seconded: Robert Elflin

Action: Upon consideration of added responsibilities to the Registrar's office, staffing, advisors and possible curriculum changes, EPC committee recommends to table at this time.

Motion to table: Ellen Hay
All approved to table

Seconded: Joe Bright

- E. Discussion of Handbook description of EPC functions (See Old Business Dec. 14, 2010)
Move to next meeting.

NOTES:

Change to Jamaican Term 1-credit Service-Learning: (EPC Minutes September 27, 2011)

III. New Business

- C. Service-Learning designation for EDUC 263 (Jamaican Internship)
EPC Chair will submit a change of title for the 1-credit Jamaican Term Service-Learning Internship to Service-Learning Experience.

Motion to adjourn meeting 5:30 p.m.: Cameron Onumah Seconded: Joe Bright All approved.

Next Meeting: 4:30 p.m., October 18, 2011
Swenson Hall of Geosciences, conference room (#103)

NOTE: the Oct. 18 meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items!