

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

October 13, 2009

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Hellstedt Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Jeff Abernathy, Kent Barnds, Lindsey Bell, Patrick Crawford, Ann Ericson, Liesl Fowler, Bill Hammer, Katie Hanson, Rick Jaeschke, Taddy Kalas, Adam Kaul, Sven Steen, Mark Vincent, Nick Wedderspoon

Guests Present: Kristin Douglas, Mary Koski

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made:

“To approve the minutes of the October 6, 2009 Educational Policies Committee meeting as presented.”

Motion-Hammer, Second-Crawford APPROVED

AGENDA ITEM II – OLD BUSINESS

A. New Program/Major Proposals

1. Music Composition

Clarification that this is not a new major, but a Concentration in Music Composition within the major was made. The two new courses being proposed will be added regardless, and no additional faculty will be needed. The person heading up the program is in place and will serve as advocate for the program. Music Composition is an attractive component of the degree and will likely lure students down the road who don't indicate an interest in it initially.

A motion was made:

“To confirm EPC's interest in seeing Part II of the Music Department's proposal for a Music Composition concentration program.”

Motion-Kaul, Second-Crawford APPROVED

The high number of credits for the Music major was discussed. Liesl confirmed that Music required the most credits at the college. She will provide a list of those majors with the highest credit requirements at the next meeting.

2. Neuroscience

The committee feels Neuroscience would be an attractive, rigorous liberal arts major. The inclusion of the study of Philosophy makes this major distinct from a double major in Biology and Psychology. The major is dependent on the two neuroscientists on staff. Were they to leave, they would need to be replaced. Of note: the department has not formally endorsed this program yet.

A motion was made:

“To confirm EPC's interest in seeing Part II of the Psychology Department's proposal for a Neuroscience program.”

Motion-Jaeschke, Second-Wedderspoon APPROVED

3. Public Health

Concerns:

- This major is not as employable as some of the others.
- No core courses listed.
- If intended as interdisciplinary, the curriculum is not outlined; not enough to evaluate
- Not comfortable with the revisions to the original form: inserting the words “might” in place of “would” in regards to the effect the new program would have on faculty teaching loads.
- Not a concern; but no great demand for this major

Positives:

- Interesting potential for this major; something you can't accomplish with a double major.
- A popular program at larger schools.

A motion was made:

“To ask the Biology Department to provide more detail in this initial proposal for a Public Health major; specifically, to list core courses, and to recommend consultation with Carrie Hough, who has a MPH.”

Motion-Kaul, Second-Hanson APPROVED

If the additional information is received by Sunday, EPC will consider it with the other proposals; if not it will be considered for approval for next year.

4. Islamic Civilization

Departmental support is not indicated. Currently there is sufficient faculty to offer this as a minor; Jeff sees the need for faculty development before a major could be offered; however the proposal indicates they are requesting both. The religion courses are in place. Sarah Skrainka plans on developing a new course. It is unclear whether they hope to offer this in the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 academic year.

A motion was made:

“To send the proposal back to department indicating/suggesting that:

- **EPC is supportive and will consider it further in the future once a more-fully developed proposal is presented**
- **Clarification about the course development (time involved)**
- **Clarification of whether major or minor (or both) is being proposed**
- **Clarification of the co-curricular opportunities**
- **Clarification of academic year being offered**
- **Additional conversations with the Dean, Ritva Williams, and Carrie Hough occur so that there are more voices.”**

Motion-Crawford, Second-Wedderspoon APPROVED

The approval process for these proposals was discussed, and concern was expressed about seeking divisional approval after EPC approval. Mark hopes that when proposals come back to EPC the second time, that representatives from the department/division would be present.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski