

## **EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE**

October 14, 2008

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Hellstedt Room

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Jeff Abernathy, John Cairns, Patrick Crawford, Ann Ericson, Stephanie Hortsman, Rick Jaeschke, Taddy Kalas, Adam Kaul, Mary Koski, Josh Morgan, Sven Steen, Ritva Williams, Michael Wolf

**Excused:** Liesl Fowler, Nancy Loitz

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM

Jeff introduced EPC's newest member, John Cairns.

#### **AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The minutes of the September 30, 2008 Educational Policies Committee meeting were accepted.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Gen Ed Items**

Since Nancy was not present, Jeff highlighted items Gen Ed is working on: 1) broadening the scope of Learning Communities. A faculty forum this matter will occur in next month to get faculty feedback and support of a redefinition of learning communities that the Evergreen group proposed at the retreat. Jeff asked EPC members if they would like to endorse the calling of a faculty forum for this purpose. The committee responded positively. 2) The prospect of the Honors Program counting as a Learning Community.

Some EPC members felt that adding more students in the Honors Program removed that many more from the general education program. They also wondered if the numbers of students it would attract would be significant enough to make it worthwhile. Jeff will relay the thoughts of EPC to Nancy Loitz.

##### **B. New Majors**

Multimedia Journalism and Mass Communication Major

Augustana's administration prompted the development of this major as a proactive measure to changing applicant demographics. Steve Bahls has provided funding for a new position and the department is ready to begin the search process once the major is approved. The question of resources was brought up. The proposal announced the hiring of one tenure track and three additional faculty. What is the total cost of this to the school on annual basis? Jeff replied that only one tenure-track faculty position has been approved for hire so far, and the department is aware of this. If the major fares well and the need for additional resources arises, additional

hiring may be considered. The costs of facilities and equipment for the new major will be built into the costs of the new Student Center. The proposal noted the new faculty member would be teaching five courses, plus be receiving two course releases, without any participation in the first-year program. Jeff indicated that it will be a gradual movement toward that load and initially will be two courses. He also mentioned that EPC is not involved in the approval of staff or staff loads.

**Motion-Williams, Second-Kaul APPROVED**

**“To approve the Multimedia Journalism and Mass Communication Major as presented, including the following new courses:**

**MJMC 213 – News Literacy (*pending Division Approval*)**

**MJMC 250 – Multimedia Reporting I: Information Gathering & Writing**

**MJMC 251 – Multimedia Reporting II: Producing News Across Platforms**

**MJMC 301 – Ethics and Law in Multimedia Journalism**

**MJMC 322 – Communication Theory III: Media and Social Influence (*pending Division Approval*)”.**

A proposal for an Environmental Studies major is anticipated by the end of Fall term. Other ongoing conversations regarding majors are: neuroscience, Africana Studies, French, and graphic arts.

Jeff posed the question as to what kind of information EPC would find valuable to best evaluate how they look upon a new major being proposed in terms of demographics, value to the college, actual bodies. What kind of information do we need to be strategic about it? The committee felt that the Admissions Department would be the most valuable source of information. Jeff proposed that EPC take a look at the recent survey given to 17-year-olds who turned down admission to Augustana as a place to start. The committee expressed an interest in this. Also data on what the “hot” majors currently are; Tim Schermer can provide CIP data on this topic. George Dehn survey data could be looked at also. We know from that data that the majors colleges offer are key to matriculation.

Ann Ericson commented that as a business person, she would like to see more cost benefit of the proactive measures we are talking about. These majors cost a lot; what offsets the cost? Asking other colleges that offer the majors we are hoping to offer about costs and returns may be beneficial.

It was also stated that we look at our own faculty for their ideas about offering new majors before we seek additional new hires to teach new majors. And, if we do entertain new majors should the department be required to answer the same questions we now ask students proposing contract majors to answer. That idea should enter into our discussion when we approve new majors.

Initially, Jeff will talk with Kent Barnds regarding the 17-year-olds survey, to Tim Schermer about CIP data that shows where students are majoring now, and also get the George Dehn study information. This will be major conversation for us this year.

### **AGENDA ITEM III – Old Business**

#### A. Contract Major Checklist and Guidelines

##### Contract Major Check List Changes (in **BOLD**):

- Step One should read: “Draft a preliminary proposal for the contract major. Contract majors consist of at **least 27 credits of coursework.....**”
- Add the following sentence to the end of Step Eleven: **“For example, a May graduate must have the project approved by week 10 of fall term of the senior year.”**

##### Contract Majors Guideline Changes (in **BOLD**):

- Senior Project paragraph. Add the following sentence immediately following “The approval of the project must occur by week 10 of the third term prior to graduation.: **“For example, a May graduate must have the project approved by week 10 of fall term of the senior year.”**

All EPC members agree to these changes, and they will be presented to Faculty Senate on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### B. Teagle – Civic Engagement Discussion . This discussion will be held at a later date.

### **AGENDA ITEM IV – ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. The EPC 2008-2009 Discussion Items Timeline Handout was presented. No preparations need to be worked on before these meetings; just be prepared to discuss.

B. Mike Wolf handed out for discussion a proposed change in the geology minor in hopes that students make the choice of a minor a more intentional one. He would like to see the geology minor more tied in with the student’s major. Why not force students to think about why they’re taking this minor. The committee liked his idea and asked if we might also be interested in offering this as a suggestion for ALL minors. Mike will proceed with the process of getting division approval on his proposal. Jeff will draft language for an invitation to all departments to think about adopting this idea of the need for more reflection and intentionality in the minor. The potential for more assessment of minors could result as well.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski