

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

November 25, 2008

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Hellstedt Room

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 28, 2008 Educational Policies Committee meeting were accepted.

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

New Majors Proposals

The History Department Revised Major & Minor Curricula Proposal Request was removed from the Agenda.

Norm Moline and Bo Dziadyk presented their proposal for a new Environmental Studies Major and Minor. The challenge the advisory committee had was to upgrade the old minor into a major that had strength and rigor to it and one that would be very competitive with other colleges that offer this major. Core courses were maintained, courses outside of the sciences were added, number of electives were reduced, integrative experiences were added, service learning was maintained. The new minor reduces the number of credits from 33 to 27 and makes the service learning optional instead of required. If no service learning is taken the student would need to take an academic internship or special topics course. Additional electives course in environmental ethics, as well as perhaps something in womens' studies would be meaningful.

Motion-Wolf, Second-Ericson APPROVED

“To approve the Environmental Studies Major and Minor as presented.”

Senior Inquiry Proposal

A concern was raised about the one-credit Research Practicum. It seems as students could get the 1 extra credit for work that they would normally do in their 300-level 3-credit course (i.e., what if the 3-credit course required a paper anyway; could they just submit that paper (or the bibliography) as their Practicum?). Also, on page 4 of the proposal, it reads as if students producing papers at the “low” end of the range could receive an A, just

as students producing papers at the “high” end of the range could. The committee members felt that this should be reworded to reflect perhaps “minimum standards” or giving the students two “options” of papers to write. Jeff will ask Dr. Farrar for clarification of these concerns. The EPC committee agreed that if these concerns were addressed, that they felt the proposal could be posted on Moodle for the December 4th faculty senate meeting.

Motion-Jaeschke, Second-Morgan TABLED

“To TABLE the Political Science Senior Inquiry Proposal until clarification is provided on the research practicum paper and after new language has been crafted about the senior inquiry research paper expectations.”

New Course Requests

ISS 200: Cultural Realities: Living in the Quad Cities.

Motion-Hortsman, Second-Ericson *Motion did not pass*

“To approve ISS 200: Cultural Realities: Living in the Quad Cities as presented.”

The committee discussed whether this course warrants credit with an “In Progress” grade being acceptable so students could continue this course beyond the first term; or if it might be more appropriate as pass/fail. This reasoning was based on the lack of academic rigor to justify credit. Some members felt that credit was justified, which helps in motivating students, and also gives the impression that the college wants students to take the course. Also, some felt it hard to ask a student to write a 8-10 page paper for no credit.

Motion-Wolf, Second-Morgan *Motion did not pass*

“To amend motion to approve ISS 200: Cultural Realities: Living in the Quad Cities to be an IP (in progress), one-credit course.”

Further comments reinforced the appropriateness for credit. It was mentioned that required readings would be appropriate. Liesl mentioned that she believed there were readings involved when she verbally spoke with Jane Tiedge. Jeff offered to speak to Jane Tiedge about including readings in the new course proposal, and clarify who would be teaching the course, as only an instructor with a Master’s Degree would be eligible.

Motion-Kalas, Second-Kaul TABLED

“To table the approval of ISS 200: Cultural Realities: Living in the Quad Cities as an IP, one-credit course until further clarification about readings and the instructor can be obtained.”

HIST 375: West Africa, Past and Present: Comparative History and Memory for a PP and a G

Motion-Wolf, Second-Hortsman APPROVED

“To approve HIST 375: West Africa, Past and Present: Comparative History and Memory for a PP and a G as presented.”

PSYCH 346: Empirical Psychology for a Q and BIOL 327: Natural History of Ireland for a PN

Motion-Wolf, Second-Kaul APPROVED

“To approve PSYCH 346: Empirical Psychology for a Q and BIOL 327: Natural History of Ireland for a PN as presented.”

Suffix Request

Motion-Morgan, Second-Hortsman APPROVED

“To approve ENGL 411: Senior Seminar: Works of Richard Wright for a D as presented.”

Learning Perspectives Request

Motion-Kalas, Second-Hortsman APPROVED

“To approve SPAN 345: Topics in Peninsula Spanish Literature for a PL as presented.”

Contract Major Discussion

A handout from Riley MacDonald was presented at the meeting. She has added Steve Warren and Bo Dziadyk to her advisory committee; they have both written letters of support; she has added two courses to her curriculum: a study of Local Flora and a study in Ethnobotany. Both studies will consist of reading, reading discussion, lecture, research and laboratory investigation. The committee seemed satisfied with Riley’s proposal and feel they can consider her proposal at the next meeting without Riley needing to be present. They wondered if the Ethnobotany course currently designated as Independent Study, is the Contract Major Senior Inquiry Course.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski