

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

March 17, 2009

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Hellstedt Room

REVISED MINUTES

Members Present: Jeff Abernathy, John Cairns, Patrick Crawford, Kirsten Day, Ann Ericson, Liesl Fowler, Rick Jaeschke, Taddy Kalas, Adam Kaul, Josh Morgan, Mary Koski, Sven Steen, Mark Vincent, Michael Wolf

Guests: Leah Mortenson, Steve Klien

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

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 10, 2009 Educational Policies Committee meeting were approved.

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Change to the Anthropology Major

Motion-Crawford, Second-Wolf APPROVED

“To approve the proposed changes to the Anthropology Minor to be effective 2009-2010 academic year as presented.”

B. Statistics on Exceptions to Degree Requirements

The Registrar’s office is now keeping statistics on the number of exceptions being made for degree requirements. Currently about 100 out of 500 students declared to graduate this spring have had one or more exceptions made to their graduation requirements, and this number is expected to grow in the next few weeks. The Registrar’s concern is that when being audited, it may look like we are not offering degree we say we are offering, due to the number of exceptions made for those degrees.

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A. Contract Major Discussion – Leah Mortenson – Environmental Communication

Motion-Wolf, Second-Ericson APPROVED

“To approve Leah Mortenson’s proposed Environmental Communication Contract Major as presented.”

B. Strategic Majors Project

Jeff provided handouts from David Snowball regarding looking at institutionalizing some of the programs already undertaken as contract majors or which might reasonably exist within our system as contract majors and whether or not Augustana should market contract majors in its brochures, media coverage, catalog. Some members felt that the work already done by our contract major students should not be available for duplication by future students interested in that contract major. Others suggested that this concept is fine for external marketing, but it should not be part of the catalog. We discussed both the issue of marketing the topics of recent contract majors and the notion that we should codify these contract majors as permanent standing majors. We did not make any conclusions. The committee would like to invite David Snowball and Kent Barnds to speak further about this at an upcoming EPC meeting. Jeff will extend an invitation.

C. Contract Major Checklist and Guidelines

It was suggested that the Contract Majors Guidelines document approved by Senate 10/23/08 be revised to include the following statement in the "Senior Project" section:

Motion-Crawford, Second-Morgan APPROVED

"To include the following sentence in the Contract Majors Guidelines: 'Students are encouraged to consult the guidelines of one of the primary departments in structuring their senior inquiry project.'"

D. Potential New Programs for Augustana

Jeff reported about recent conversations he has been having with faculty about changes Augustana can make to enhance its competitiveness. Jeff is currently in conversations with the Music Department about a summer master's program, offered over 2-3 summers by current faculty and perhaps bringing other faculty in. Jeff asked the committee to think about other programs we might develop that would increase Augustana's reputation and increase its enrollment. He is also talking with Communication Sciences and Disorders, which is a field that requires a master's degree in order to practice. The committee felt this is a worthwhile conversation to continue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski