

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee March 8, 2006
Approved 4-12-06
Educational Policy Committee
March 8, 2006 (Meeting #7)

Present: Chris Carroll, Richard Davis, Bill Fleischman, Kathryn Fuller, Steve Hedman, John Hiller, Jill Jenson, Karl Johnson, Vince Magnuson, Mary Ann Marchel, Mary Jean Menzel, Jerry Pepper, Ken Risdon, Ryan Rosandich, Terrie Shannon, Randy Skalberg, Jason Staab, Timothy Tangen

Excused: Gloria Brush, Elizabeth Nelson, Rudy Perrault

The minutes of the 1-25-06 meeting were approved with no changes.

Intro to College Learning

SSP 1000, Introduction to College Learning, is a campus-wide course for which EPC is the governing agency. In the spring of 05 the EPC subcommittee on Admissions, Retention, and Graduation (ARG) was charged with a review of SSP 1000. ARG conducted a thorough review of course syllabi and a summary of their findings was distributed to the group. The committee had a number of recommendations, including that all sections be required to meet the current content area guidelines and that curriculum guidelines be reviewed for consistency across sections. In addition, the committee suggested a review of the policy regarding the collection and retention of syllabi for multi-section courses. Are there campus-wide criteria for uniformity among multi-section courses? This issue will be explored further. Some students have expressed concern over having an SSP prefix on their transcript which some feel implies remedial coursework. A more neutral prefix would be preferred, although a campus-wide prefix does not currently exist. Moving this course out of SSP would also imply that budgetary control would reside elsewhere. It was noted that student satisfaction is not addressed in any of the information currently before the committee. Jerry will check with Paula Knudson and Jill Strand to see if there are student satisfaction data available. The committee also requested that additional information be collected to clarify the current data including how ICL is currently being assessed, and background information regarding the original need behind developing this course. Jerry will request this information and bring it to our next meeting. Questions of course objectives, credit vs. non credit, required versus elective, among others are still open for discussion. EPC members were encouraged to take these issues back to their constituencies for review. Further discussion of this issue will be continued at our next meeting.

Credit by exam

The current policy on credit by exam was distributed for review. The policy states that credit may be earned through examination by any currently registered UMD student for any course in which they are not currently enrolled. The minutes from the EPC meeting in which this policy was passed (1-29-03) state that departments are not required to give such exams, although the current policy language in the UMD catalog does not mention this explicitly. It was suggested that the policy as it is currently worded is unenforceable. The Twin Cities policy states that credit

by exam is offered at the discretion of academic departments. Under what circumstances can a request be denied? It was recommended that there be guidelines to allow for consistencies across departments. Classes with lab components are generally excluded from consideration unless a student has documented lab experience. The cost to the student for this test is \$30 dollars, but it is extremely time intensive for faculty and this nominal fee doesn't begin to cover the costs for faculty time to develop, administer and grade the exam. Students can also petition to be exempted from taking the course if they can demonstrate they already have the background skills and knowledge from a previous course. Credit by exam is not always transferable to other colleges and universities. It was suggested that the fee for credit by exam be raised perhaps as high as the same price as tuition, since students who pass are receiving full credit. It was noted that if this were the case, test by exam might as well be eliminated since the financial risk for students to take the test would be too high. Information will be gathered from each collegiate unit on how many test-out exams are given in a year by each department. This information will be brought to the next meeting for continued discussion. Members were encouraged to discuss this issue with their constituents and be ready to present feedback at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m.