

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee March 7, 2012

Approved 3-28-12

Educational Policy Committee

March 7, 2012 (Meeting #10)

Present: Carol Bock, Tracey Bolen, Bob Carlson, Aydin Durgunoglu, Jason Ford, David Gore, Steve Hedman, Steve Hendrickson, Jim Klueg, Carmen Latterell, Sue Lombardo, Jackie Millslagle, Maureen O'Brien, Jerry Pepper, Michael Pfau, Lisa Reeves, Andrea Schokker, Jennifer Schultz, Callie Stark,

Excused: Julia Williams

Guests: Joyce Strand

The minutes from the 2-22-12 meeting were approved.

Undergraduate degree requirement

Feedback from the campus-wide review process was similar to the discussion held at EPC. This requirement can't be programmed in APAS for students coming from another institution and enroll at UMD seeking a second undergraduate degree. To address this issue language could be added to clarify that "these requirements are for a first undergraduate degree." It was noted that this may be confusing for students who obtain dual degrees (i.e. double majors). It was recommended that we leave the policy language as initially revised, knowing that there are always going to be special circumstances. This revised policy will move forward to Campus Assembly for action.

Grading and transcripts

Language was added back in to this policy requiring that students with a C or higher must request permission to re-take a course. People Soft cannot review a student's academic history at the point of registration; therefore the only way that this can be enforced within the registration process is to require all students to get permission numbers to repeat a course. The Registrar does not recommend that we approve a policy that we can't enforce. A member noted that although the policy can't be enforced at the point of registration, it can be enforced by faculty, and it was noted that there are departments that already do this (i.e. they cancel repeat registrations if the course is full). It was recommended that the new language remain in the policy. This revised policy will move forward to Campus Assembly for action.

High School prep requirements

The Twin Cities campus has recently changed their high school prep policy to require four years of high school math instead of three. Crookston, Morris & Rochester have all adopted this change. Does UMD want to have a lower standard to get into UMD than the other U of M campuses? This would not go into effect until 2015, but currently over 80% of our incoming students are already taking four years of math. It was noted that prep requirements do apply to transfer students, even students coming in with an AA degree. It was suggested that an amendment be considered that students with an AA degree should be exempt from high school

prep requirements. The Registrar is currently gathering data regarding prep deficiencies for new high school students and transfer students. Jackie will bring this information to our next meeting. EPC will have another chance to review this policy after it is posted for campus-wide feedback. A motion was made and seconded to approve this policy for campus-wide posting. Motion approved.

Assessment Procedures and Policies

A revised draft of procedures and policies was sent with the agenda. A member raised a question regarding the purpose and intended audience for this report. It is important to differentiate if this document is for accreditation purposes or if it is intended to guide faculty and student affairs in how assessment is implemented. A member noted that many faculty are not on board with assessment or what they are supposed to be doing. Is assessment there to improve student learning or to evaluate faculty?

A member recommended that this document be revised with less jargon. Another member requested clarification regarding grades. Can grades stand as a singular assessment option in a given course? Final grades are not a measurement of learning outcomes, but grades for a particular assignment can serve the purpose of evaluating a learning outcome. Several members noted that this document was unclear regarding the difference between course assessment and program assessment. Jackie will prepare a revised version for review at our next meeting.

Lib ed course approval process

Jerry provided an overview of the lib ed course approval process in preparation for our next meeting. An approved course proposal was distributed for review and briefly discussed. LEIG did not review student learning outcomes, just criteria. A full explanation of the criteria can be found in the Task Force report at: [HYPERLINK "http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/libed"](http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/libed) www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/libed. It was noted that criteria for both the category and the knowledge domain need to be addressed.

Academic calendar survey results

Survey results were sent with the agenda and have also been shared widely with campus governance and leadership. Results cannot be separated out by faculty and staff as the survey was not set up this way. It has become clear that some students misunderstood the question on three semesters (that it would be mandatory versus optional). President Kaler mentioned a 3-semester option in his State of the University address, so this issue has been getting quite a bit of recent media attention. Much more discussion on the trimester option is necessary, and if a decision is made to move forward, implementation of this would be many years out. It was noted that calendar decisions need to be driven by curriculum issues, and that we need to look at the big picture before making any decisions on the calendar.

EVCAA update

UMD recently submitted our annual budget request. This document was reviewed and approved by UMD's Budget Committee. The request included 15 new faculty lines, plus funding for 6 department head positions and 12 staff positions. Additional funding was requested for graduate

education that was lost in the UMTC Graduate School transition, and additional staffing for the Police department, Career Services, and Student Conduct.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.