

UEPC Minutes – October 13, 2008

Members Present:

Paul Zarnoth
Hoang Vu
Norm Bedford
Patrick Downey
Elena Escalera
Asbjorn Moseidjord
Charles Hamaker
Sue Fallis
Sue Birkenseer
Christa Kell
Ed Tywoniak

Announcements

I. Communication with the Office of the Registrar

A representative from the Office of the Registrar always attended meetings of the EPB. Due to the new committee structure, information is no longer being passed along to the Registrar's Office. Chair Zarnoth announced that he was asking Vice-Chair Vu to take charge of communicating relevant information to the Registrar's Office. Norm Bedford suggested asking the Registrar Office staff if they would prefer to send a representative to the UEPC meetings. Chair Zarnoth agreed to ask them what they would prefer.

II. Approval of an Individualized Major

An individualized major in Digital Gaming and Communication was brought forward on behalf of a student by Ed Tywoniak. It was approved by Chair Zarnoth.

III. Approval of a Course Name Change (HIST 114)

Brother Charles Hilken requested a formal name change for a course on behalf of the History Department. The request was approved by Chair Zarnoth to change the name from HIST 114: The Reformation Era to HIST 114: Early Modern Europe. No changes were proposed for the content of the course. Vice-Chair Vu had already communicated this information to the Office of the Registrar.

IV. Core Curriculum Proposal Update

Chair Zarnoth updated the group on the Core Curriculum Proposal. He reminded the UEPC to make every effort to attend community meetings sponsored by the Core Curriculum Task Force to learn about the three proposed models for the core

curriculum. He also stated that he expects the November 24 meeting of the UEPC to be dedicated to a discussion of the Core Curriculum Proposal. Members of the CCTF will be invited to attend to respond to questions and join in the discussion.

Summer School Initiative

Sue Fallis, who is representing the UEPC at meetings discussing the summer school initiative, updated the UEPC on the progress being made. She mentioned that the task force is leaning toward a 4-week summer school rather than a 3-week summer school. It will begin with 8-12 courses targeted for students that are having trouble graduating in four years. Many details need to still be worked out. These include the identification of specific courses that could be offered and the economic / financial aspects of the initiative. The goal of the program is to assist students make progress toward graduation, not to bring in extra money to the College.

Proposal from Physics Department - Changing the prerequisite for Physics 10

This proposal was initially discussed at the 9-8-08 meeting. A question was raised about the impact of the course on other academic departments. Since that meeting, the Health Science Program and the Biology Department have been contacted. They report that the proposal will have no impact on their programs. They report with certainty that they will continue to require Math 28. With this new information, the UEPC voted unanimously to recommend that the proposal be approved. Vice Chair Vu will be communicating this information to the Office of the Registrar.

Proposal to Adopt the New Course Evaluation Form

This proposal was initially discussed at the 9-8-08 meeting. Since that time, the Committee on Teaching and Scholarship revised the course evaluation form to address 6 of the 8 comments made by the UEPC. Two comments remain. The first is a suggestion to hold focus groups to determine how students interpret or misinterpret items on the form. The second was a more general suggestion that a faculty committee should examine how the results of the course evaluations are used, particularly by the Rank and Tenure committee.

The UEPC voted unanimously to recommend that the Faculty Senate approve the new revised course evaluation form after setting up focus groups of students. The UEPC removed its earlier suggestion regarding the investigation of the use of the course evaluation data. This will be presented as a separate proposal, which Ed Tywoniak volunteered to write.

Proposal for Procedures for Discontinuance of an Academic Department or Program

An earlier version of this proposal was passed by the EPB and Faculty Senate during the last academic year. Provost Dobkin recommended changes to the formal proposal. These revisions have been examined and approved, with very minimal changes, by the GPSEPC. The UEPC voted unanimously to approve the proposal with the revisions made by both the Provost and the GPSEPC.

New Course Proposal for the Economics Department

The Economics Department is proposing a new course (Multinational Enterprises). The Economics Department was unable to send a representative to the meeting, so the UEPC reviewed the proposal and prepared a list of comments and questions to help the Economics Department to prepare for the next meeting. The comments include:

- 1) The course requires a course number.
- 2) Because the proposal was sent by an individual faculty member rather than the department chair, the UEPC will need a very brief note from the department chair indicating that the Course Proposal and Catalog Course Description have been reviewed and approved by the Economics Department.
- 3) As a friendly suggestion, a member of the UEPC has asked whether the course would be more effective if the final grade was contingent upon more student work. In the course syllabus provided, the entire grade is based upon one test, one paper, and participation.
- 4) The introduction of a new course has no impact on the total number of course sections that a department is permitted to offer each academic year. The UEPC may ask the Economics Department representative which existing Economics course might be taught less often if Multinational Enterprises is taught once every two years.