

## **UEPC Minutes – March 2, 2009**

### Members Present:

Paul Zarnoth  
Norm Bedford  
Patrick Downey  
Elena Escalera  
Asbjorn Moseidjord  
Jose Feito  
Sue Fallis  
Sue Birkenseer  
Steve Bachofer  
Hoang Vu  
Leslie Welty  
Christa Kell

Patrick Downey and Ed Tywoniak were absent with notice.

### **Proposal to Change the Name of the “Studies for Multilingual Students” Program**

Nushi Safinya, Director of the Studies for Multilingual Students Program, contacted the UEPC to change the name of the program to “Studies for International / Multilingual Students”. No member of the UEPC spoke in objection to the idea; however, Leslie Welty did ask that the existing SMS designation remain the same (rather than be changed to SIMS). She explained that the program already changed its name only one year ago – from “Studies for International Students” – and that changing the designation again so quickly would be asking too much of those individuals updating the system. The proposal was passed (9 in favor, 1 opposed) Note: This information has already been communicated to Nushi Safinya and she agreed that it would be acceptable to retain the SMS designation.

### **Feedback Regarding the Center for International Studies**

During the February 9 meeting, Paul Zarnoth agreed to search through past EPB minutes to find out more about whether an extensive review of the study abroad programs should be carried out soon. Paul reported that Vice Provost Sweeney stated during a September 19, 2005, meeting that “the PRC would review the entire Center every five years, with each of the programs as a chapter in the review.” The PRC records show that a review of the Center for International Studies is, in fact, scheduled for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Norm Bedford expressed concern about the Center’s lack of resources and stated that the lack of resources severely limits the Center’s ability to review its existing study abroad programs. Norm volunteered to speak with the Program Review Committee to raise awareness of the problem. Paul Zarnoth agreed to contact the Chair of the PRC to try to arrange a time that Norm could meet with the PRC.

### **Announcement of Two Individualized Majors**

Chair Zarnoth announced that two individualized majors had been approved since the last UEPC meeting. The names of the approved majors are Developmental Health and Geology.

### **Announcement of a Name Change for a Course in Psychology**

The Psychology Department has chosen to change the name of Psych 120: (Experimental Psychology) to Psych 106 (Experimental Laboratory Research). The name change was made because the course concentrates on laboratory research and the department wanted to make it explicit that other forms of experimentation also exist. The number was changed to 106 to place it with 104 and 105 in the catalog (which are both options that can be used to fulfill the same requirement).

No changes to the course content were proposed.

### **Discussion of the Core Curriculum**

Christa Kell proposed that the UEPC become more involved in the core curriculum discussion. Asbjorn Moseidjord stated his agreement with this idea. Christa, and others, argued that the UEPC has a responsibility to become more involved in the process. Several members argued that, in general, there needs to be more involvement in the process by greater numbers of faculty. Paul Zarnoth reminded the committee that the UEPC did play an important role in the process in the Fall semester, but also agreed to speak with Brother Charles (Chair of the Faculty Senate) and others to help decide upon a meaningful, substantive, and appropriate role for the UEPC in the ongoing discussion of the core curriculum.

### **Proposal for an Experimental Course: Ethics, Interfaith Leadership, and Organizational Development (BSAD 183)**

Barbara McGraw attended the UEPC meeting to help discuss the proposal for a new experimental course which could fulfill the same requirement for Business Administration majors as BSAD 181 (Ethical, Social, and Political Issues in Business) and BSAD 182 (Business, Economics, and Catholic Social Ethics). No serious concerns were raised regarding the proposal and it was approved as an experimental course with a unanimous vote (10-0-0).

### **Discussion of Revisions to the New Course Proposal Procedures**

The new course proposal procedures were reviewed during the meeting and several small revisions were agreed to by all present:

- 1) “Dean for Academic Services” was replaced with “Dean for Academic Development” to reflect a change in the job title.
- 2) The chair of the UEPC will now be instructed to inform the Registrar of new courses that are approved. The old version of the guidelines only instructed the chair to inform the Registrar about experimental courses.
- 3) The UEPC will now ask for brief notes from the program head or department chair of the department or program hosting the course stating that the faculty in the department or the faculty in the program are aware of and support the new course. A similar note of support will be requested from the dean of the appropriate school. This revision was made in response to instances where new courses have been proposed without the knowledge of the chair or dean.
- 4) Rather than requiring a specific number of hours of meeting/homework time per week, the procedures will now indicate the total required meeting/homework time for a .25 credit course and a .5 credit course. This change is designed to accommodate courses that have workloads that vary across the semester.
- 5) One element of the experimental course proposal will be changed from “brief course description and tentative syllabus or reading list” to “brief course description including learning goals, assessment methods and reading list.
- 6) Sue Birkenseer volunteered to revise the statement about the library resource review to make what is required more easily understood by applicants.

The committee also discussed working with others (possibly CATS) to create a web-based version of the proposal form to encourage consistency in the format of the proposals.