

Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: 5/6/2022

Faculty/Staff Members: Alyson Dearie, Eric Edlund, Margaret Gichuru, Christina Knopf, Jennifer Moore, Jason Parks, Abby Thomas, Jeff Walkuski, Chris Widdall

Student Members: none

Ex-Officio Members: Thom Hanford, Carol Van Der Karr

Guests: Nancy Diller

Members Absent: Christina Knopf, Jennifer Moore

Topic	Comments/Discussion	Action
Approval of minutes	Review of minutes from April 22, 2022	approved
General discussion	This will be Alyson Dearie’s last meeting with the EPC.	
Old business	Eric gave a brief update at the prior Faculty Senate meeting regarding the status of the INC grade proposal and work. The Micro-credential task force is forming, work to be continued next year under guidance from Darci Contri	
New business	<p>Prioritization planning for the fall semester:</p> <p>High priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residency requirements for concentrations (likely needs vetting) ○ Snow day policies ○ Attendance policies (perhaps can be combined with the prior) 	

Medium priority:

- Credit for prior experiences
- Eliminating finals week (long-term project, working group already formed, revisit old survey and form a plan)

Low priority:

- INC grade proposal (revisit with information from the summer)
- Second major, different degree (clarification on existing policy)
- Course reset policy for current students (new strategy?)

Removed from list:

- Mental health statement

Discussion of priority items:

Residency requirements for concentrations:

- We should contact the stakeholders in this discussion and get their input.
- We need to distinguish between optional versus required concentrations.
- Some accrediting agencies are requesting a change from “concentration” to language like “tracks” or “areas of study”.

Attendance policies:

- Various problems were identified, including conflicts between course management and messaging from the Associate Deans, significantly increased levels of absenteeism over the last few years, students leaving early for breaks, faculty canceling classes, and the complex interaction of class attendance and mental health issues.
- It was noted that there exist attendance requirements (attendance verification) for financial aid and that that we need to be cognizant of these to ensure compliance.
- Proposed that we should view this topic as composed of three parts: college policy, instructor autonomy, and the responsibility of Associate Deans in the attendance verification process.
- Some colleges perform an enrollment verification process during the first week of classes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion about how attending classes may be good for students who are struggling and how missing additional classes can compound stress. ○ We could consider doing a sandwich seminar on the subject. ○ No matter what we do, we should involve the SGA in these discussions. <p>Selection of a meeting time for the 2022-2023 year: 10 AM was identified as the optimal time</p> <p>Selection of meeting location for the 2022-2023 year: Discussion of the benefits to meeting in person and the disproportionate inconvenience of meeting in person. A compromise was struck where the first meeting will be in person (likely at the conference room in Miller), with options for hybrid meetings thereafter.</p> <p>Selection of the chair for the 2022-2023 year: Chris nominated Eric. Jeff seconded.</p>	<p>No objection. 10 AM selected as the official EPC meeting time.</p> <p>First meeting in person, following meetings will have a hybrid option.</p> <p>Vote: approved. Eric will continue as chair for the 2022-2023 year.</p>
Adjourned		Meeting adjourned at: 10:54 AM
	Respectfully submitted by Eric Edlund, 5/9/2022	