

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MINUTES**

**February 17, 2010
Wednesday, 11 am-1:30 p.m., Kerr Hall, Room 307**

Present: Holly Cordova (NSTF Rep), Cormac Flanagan, Jimin Lee, Roxanne Monnet (Staff), Matthew Palm (SUA Rep), Eric Porter, Deanna Shemek (Provost Rep), John Tamkun (Chair), Peter Young, Eileen Zurbriggen.

Absent: Pam Hunt-Carter (Registrar, *ex officio*), Deanna Shemek (Provost Rep).

Guests: Margie Claxton (Associate Registrar), Elaine Kihara (Academic Preceptor Designee), Michael McCawley (Associate Director of Admissions).

I. Announcements and updates.

Chair Tamkun reviewed for the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) his meeting of last Friday with Vice Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs (VPDAA) Alison Galloway at which they discussed curricular plans, divisional budgets, and the Advisory Task Force Report (ATFR) on the reconstitution of the Humanities Division. They will continue discussions of topics that arise regarding enrollment and curriculum management. She indicated that suspension of the Legal Studies Major is under discussion by the Politics Department.

The most recent correspondence from Community Studies was forwarded to the Committee. This correspondence expressed concern about the budget and was a cry for help. Chair Tamkun will discuss the situation with VPDAA Galloway to attempt to better understand what is happening and how to respond while following agreed upon Senate/Administration processes.

The Economics Department indicated that they are receptive to working with Writing Program Lecturer Carol Freeman on development of their Disciplinary Communication proposal. Dr. Freeman will keep CEP informed of her work with Economics.

II. Film and Digital Media external review closure meeting update.

Yesterday was the closure meeting for the external review for the Department of Film and Digital Media (FDM). The effect of the new graduate program on the undergraduate program was raised for discussion. The department thinks that they will be better able to articulate an answer to the question in a couple of years. They are admitting their first Ph.D. class. The department is concerned about how to manage their budget cut. They are now reliant on student fees for their courses. A merge with the social documentation program is being discussed.

From the discussion it appeared that DANM is headed in a completely different direction from just 3 months ago. Their external review is about to happen.

FDM was asked about their admission policy of B- or better in three lower-division courses. The department thinks it is working and has no concerns about it at present. Students may appeal to have a chance to take another course or may appeal through a portfolio review.

A past CEP wanted to consider the topic of GPA based admission to majors. CEP agreed that it is an important topic to take up at some point and would like to understand whether limits are due to capacity or pedagogy.

The colleges are seeing an increase in students who want to discuss what to do now that they can not get into the majors of their choice. Unfortunately, finding another major that they are interested in and that they can get into is getting more and more difficult.

III. Humanities Advisory Task Force Report.

Discussion of the ATFR and last week's consultation with Humanities Dean Georges Van den Abbeele continued. In a post-consultation response, CEP will remind the division of the different processes for the kinds of changes discussed in the proposal, and will encourage that they articulate divisional principles, and consider student voice and needs. The division is still committed to maintaining all majors although administration of the majors may be combined. There may be changes to oversight of majors and shifting of faculty groups.

IV. Cross-cultural Analysis and Ethnicity and Race Proposals.

CEP discussed a subset of Cross-Cultural Analysis general education (GE) proposals and a draft checklist for review of these proposals. Cross-cultural analysis should have some comparison, and should promote an in-depth examination of a culture or several cultures. This requirement focuses on cultures outside the U.S. Courses that focus on U.S. subculture should consider the Ethnicity and Race (ER) designation.

CEP next discussed a subset of ER proposals and an associated checklist for review of proposals. They decided that intersections should be a significant part of the course, three of which are mentioned in the posted guidelines. A course focused on a historical topic could be appropriate for the ER designation, as long as it provides a critical perspective on race/ethnicity relevant to the present and this relevance is noted or featured in the course in some way.

V. GE course revision checklists.

CEP discussed whether students need to satisfy the GE content of the course to pass the course. The Committee agreed that students do need to satisfy/achieve the educational objective to pass the course and that this needs to be demonstrated in the proposal.

Recognizing that it is not enforceable to maintain the principle that students should not pass the course if they do not pass the GE content of the course, CEP decided to focus on those course that are light on GE content in order to identify situations where passing the course would not necessarily mean passing the GE content. The percent of methodology as indicated in the course approval should appear to help identify where there are potential issues.

Checklists for the following GE requirement were reviewed: Practices: Collaborative Endeavors, Perspectives in Environmental Awareness, Cross-Cultural Awareness, and Ethnicity and Race,

As discussed earlier in the quarter, all proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of two members who will identify what would need to be done prior to approval. When they are in agreement that a proposal is ready for approval, they will put forward the recommendation on a consent agenda.

Members agreed to use an electronic checklist for each proposal which will be imported into an overall spreadsheet maintained by Chair Tamkun.

So attests,

John Tamkun, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy