

Educational Policies Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Status of Minutes: Approved 5/3/23

Attendees

Members Present: L. Becker, J. DeBonis, S. Garrett, K. Grote, M. Kadach, L. Marcal, Y. Mimura, T. Montañó, K. Taylor, D. Weingarten

Members Absent: T. Zirakian

Staff: D. Cours, R. Guerra, K. Harris, J. Hunter

Guests: K. Baxter, D. Carranza, R. Child, K. Dabbour, L. Domine, S.J. Gandhi, D. Gray, A. Glocke, L. Hall, A. Hanreddy, T. Hattori, C. Hayashi, J. Henry, X. Jia, B. Lasky, P. Lazarony, J. Lee, N. Martin, G. Masequesmay, E. Stohl, D. Tamalis

I. Announcements

- A. D. Weingarten said that no additional updates were available regarding the Faculty Senate run-off election for the remaining 2023-2024 EPC member. An update should be available by the next meeting.
- B. D. Weingarten announced that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reviewed EPC's recommendations for the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) and Dean's List policy revisions. The first reading for the GWAR was waived and the policy will be considered at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow. Regarding the Dean's List policy, SEC asked why the change required a 9 unit minimum rather than the maximum units of the cohort. EPC members acknowledged the feedback and were open to removing a mandatory minimum unit count for cohorted programs and reverting the policy recommendation to enrollment in all available cohort units. Associate Dean Gandhi also supported the revision. EPC will consider the revised policy recommendation, along with any additional feedback from Faculty Senate, at the next meeting.

II. Business

- A. The minutes from 4/5/2023 were **MSP approved**.
- B. Program Review Update
 - 1. T. Montañó reported on the Geography and Environmental Studies external review exit meeting. Commendations included faculty care and solid connections to students and sense of belonging; high level of student

engagement and mentorship; envy for the Sanborn map library revered by those outside of CSUN; and faculty well known and respected in the field. Some issues included faculty overload; uncertainty about space (especially for the Sanborn map library); overall concern about losing faculty and the number of courses faculty are able to teach; reduction of TA opportunities; strategic planning; and strengthening and expanding the program.

C. College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Africana Studies

Add Ethnic Studies Designation

1. AFRS 352 – The Black Novel (3). **MSP approved.**

D. College of Humanities

Central American Studies

Add Ethnic Studies Designation

1. CAS 202 – Survey of Central American Visual, Installation and Performance Arts (3). **MSP approved.**
2. CAS 310 – Modern History of the Central American People (3). **MSP approved** with correction to the course description on the syllabus, and clarification of the Ethnic Studies SLOs on the syllabus, matrix and narrative.

Asian American Studies

New Course

3. AAS 362 – Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Experience (3). **MSP approved.**

English

Memo

4. The memo to update the course number from COMS 304 to COMS 305 for the English, B.A. – Subject Matter Program for the Single Subject Credential Option was **MSP approved.**

College

New Program

5. Disability Studies Minor. **MSP approved.**

E. College of Health and Human Development

Nursing

New Course

(Returning from 4/5/23)

1. NURS 410 – Research and Evidence Based Practice for the Nursing Discipline (3). **MSP approved** with correction to requisites listed on the syllabus.

Program Modification

2. Nursing, B.S. – RN to BSN Option. **MSP approved** with correction to catalog copy for NURS 311L.

Recreation and Tourism Management

New GE Course

(Returning from 2/15/23)

3. RTM 301 – Travel and Tourism (3). **MSP approved** with updated WI SLO table.

Program Modification

4. Tourism, Hospitality, and Recreation Management, B.S. **MSP approved.**

- F. T. Montañó provided an update on the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for developing the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) institutional learning outcomes. The FLC discussed the concept of JEDI, the acronym and the seriousness of the outcomes. As a result, the FLC recommends changing the acronym from JEDI to DEJI. In addition, the FLC had long conversations about the ILOs, and discovered that some ILOs already reflect diversity, equity, justice and inclusion principles. The FLC is in the process of developing the proposed action-oriented DEJI ILOs and is expected to conclude by the end of this semester. Recommendations will be presented to EPC early in the fall.
- G. K. Grote provided a brief overview of the Credit for Prior Learning policy recommendation updates since the last meeting. D. Cours added that she consulted with A. Levin in Graduate Studies, and one or two members from GSC will work with the subcommittee since the policy also affects graduate students. One suggestion was made to reword *experiential course credit* to *experiential learning course credit*. The policy will return after collaboration with GSC.
- H. After brief discussion, it was **MSP approved** to update to [Syllabus Best Practices](#) website to include a Grading section with information about courses with corequisite labs/discussions.
- I. D. Weingarten said he will attend a meeting of CSU GE chairs regarding AB 928 in two weeks. He will communicate the Faculty Senate position that GE chairs should not be making concessions on AB 928 in the CSU community, which could possibly move the starting point for negotiations and discussions. D. Cours added that she attended the CSU AVP meeting where the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs recognized that faculty have grave concerns about the impact on CSU GE Breadth. In addition, some campuses are concerned that having multiple GE pathways treat various populations of students differently. D. Cours and other AVPs were advocating for campuses to regain control of upper division GE for campus graduation requirements such as American Institutions, Lifelong Learning and Comparative Cultural Studies.
- J. The committee continued an open-ended discussion on the shape of General Education. D. Weingarten echoed Provost Komarraju's comments from the last EPC

meeting that the faculty set the standards and shape of GE. Some ideas such as using GE to increase retention and graduation rates, GE cohorting, GE themes and coherence/intention were discussed. Models from UC San Diego and CSU Chico were also referenced.

The challenge with success in first year writing and math was also raised. D. Cours reminded the committee about the pilot program in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication that defers GE math until the second year. The data will be reviewed next year as students enroll and will answer whether students return with higher retention, GPA, and success rates.

An issue was also raised about the math requirement, and connecting it in an applicable, realistic approach to prepare students for everyday life and career discipline. D. Cours said the CSU policy allows for a broad definition of mathematics and quantitative reasoning, including personal finance, but the campus has interpreted the requirement more narrowly. However, some departments have B4 courses, such as CADV 180, that are connected to the major and have much better passage rates.

Regarding cohorted programs, D. Cours said that the Matador Advising Hub uses block enrollment, dubbed “Galaxies” for some majors, such as pre-health, to enroll students in three courses together. The outcomes look good but factorial placement of math and English, even in the same major, can be challenging with the various combinations of math and writing courses. Student representative M. Kadach shared feeling more connected as part of a cohort program, but for GE, students like having different options, whereas cohorts have fewer options. In addition, D. Cours said that Exploratory is a large major that needs GE breadth to help students select a major, and that students find majors through GE they otherwise would not know about.

D. Cours also recommended collaborating with administration and other standing committees, such as Educational Resources Committee, regarding a more strategic funding model that is not based solely on FTES.

It was recommended to solicit feedback from students and alumni about the GE experience. In addition, the committee could invite campus partners to the EPC retreat to talk about GE.

D. Weingarten asked if EPC should consider changing the SLOs to allow for some exploration and also potentially the new idea of specialization. And as the committee reviews the SLOs, to determine whether the intention statements and objectives need strengthening. D. Weingarten asked the committee to bring thoughts and ideas for further discussion next year, and members who are not returning should bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

K. The discussion on whether changes in AI necessitate updating the Faculty Policy on Academic Dishonesty was postponed due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.