

EPC – Minutes
September 4, 2003

Attending: Howard Busbee, Cory Butler, John Charles, Jim Deffenbaugh, Debbie Eck (recorder), Amy Firestone, John Gibney, Phil Kearns, Arthur Knight, Larry Leemis, Laurie McManus, Edward Pratt, Jenny Taylor, Carolyn Boggs

Jenny Taylor, the new Chair of EPC, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm in the University Center, Chesapeake Room B.

Jenny introduced herself and all the members present introduced themselves.

Edward Pratt reviewed the issues regarding the DIL (Digital Information Literacy) Project. The project is intended to assess the computing competency of entering students and, when needed, give them a basic understanding of information technology skills early in the academic career. The deficiency of the current computing requirement is that it takes place toward the end of their undergraduate studies, i.e., their junior and senior years. With the new system, departments/programs could then revise their discipline-specific computing requirements, as necessary, to build on this baseline of knowledge. The DIL exam will be administered this semester (fall 2003), and the EPC will make a report to the faculty in spring 2004.

Ed also addressed another important task before the EPC this semester: the need to finish the review of the GER Working Group reports and to finalize recommendations to the faculty concerning changes to the GER criteria. In regards to the GER Working Group reports, the EPC has not yet reviewed the GER 4 and 6 reports. This review needs to be done early this semester. In regards to changes to the GER criteria, the EPC last year drafted recommendations for GER 1, 3, 5, and 7. It has not yet made recommendations on GER 2; recommendations on GER 4 and 6 will take place after a review of the Working Group reports. There was much debate last year surrounding the criteria for GER 2, so the EPC needs to be look at past minutes and understand the intent of the faculty when that GER was proposed and later implemented.

Also, the EPC will need to write expectations for each of the GERs, as part of the SACS accreditation process. Ed Pratt has drafted these expectations, but the EPC will need to finalize them. The Assessment Steering Committee is working on expectations for GER 1, so the EPC need not look at them at this time.

Spring projects include a review of the upper-level major writing requirement; and finalizing expectations for the lower-level writing requirement, the freshman seminar, and the Foreign Language Proficiency. The Writing Committee will draft expectations for the lower-level writing requirement and for the freshman seminar, which it will then submit to the EPC for consideration.

Jenny asked for volunteers for groups to finalize the recommendations for GER 1, 3, and 5 and to revise the expectations drafted by Ed. Ed mentioned that he will attend the meetings, so as to address any questions that might arise. Committees are to meet and to make recommendations to the full EPC on September 18.

GER 1: Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning

- 1) Phil Kearns
- 2) Larry Leemis
- 3) Arthur Knight

GER 3: The Social Sciences

- 1) Cindy Hahamovitch
- 2) Evelyn Hall
- 3) Mike Finn

GER 5: Literature and History of the Arts

- 1) Laurie McManus
- 2) Jenny Taylor
- 3) Jim Whittenburg

Jenny stated that she is the new web-master for the EPC website. The agendas and forms are at: http://it.wm.edu/undergradstudies/epc/CC_List.cfm. The window will be open all day on the Wednesday before the EPC meeting for voting on New Course Applications, Course Change Applications, and GER Applications.

The following courses were discussed and voted on at the meeting:

Biology 317 Paleontology cross listed with GEO 302--approved

Classical Studies 221: Judaism in the Greco-Roman World cross-listed with Religion 315--approved

Psychology 320 description change--approved

Psychology 404: description change--approved

Psychology 447: Title change: Functional Neuroanatomy -- approved

Economic 310: Game Theory tabled for further discussion. No prerequisite listed.

GER 4a Application Marine Science new course title, Revolution in Science and Civilization: INTR 150W was approved.

Jenny addressed the proposal for a new Chinese Major. Discussion centered around whether or not there was enough interest among students in taking Chinese, whether there were sufficient funds and staffing, especially when faculty were on leave; and what impact this would have on other departments. The proposal was tabled until further information is obtained.

The EPC meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Eck