

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Alter Hall Room 405

Present: Mary Anne Gaffney (Chair), Nilgün Anadolu-Okur, Suman Batish, Bruce Conrad (Secretary), Jimmy Curan, Chris Dennis, Eli Goldblatt, Peter R. Jones, Wendy Kutchner, Dan Liebermann, Michele O'Connor, Teresa Soufas.

1. The minutes of January 24, 2011 were approved with minor corrections.
2. The meeting opened with the mention of Temple's 6 - year and 4 - year graduation rate which is currently "good" at 42%. Our goal is "to reach 50%". Retention from freshman to sophomore went up from 85 to 89%.
3. Changes in the Core requirement: Michele O'Connor discussed the Core curriculum requirement for International Studies (IS), which has two courses. GenEd requires only one GG, and there are no new core courses being approved to fulfill core requirements. IB 3580, Destination Ghana will fulfill one core IS requirement through the Study Abroad Option. FSBM advising will need to post DARS exceptions ("IB 3580 fulfills one IS requirement for EPPC") to update the IS section of the DARS. The Bulletin will be updated to reflect the addition of IB 3580 (Ghana) as an approved study abroad program."
4. Consequently, "Destination India – IB 3580" motion was passed unanimously as a fulfillment of the IS core requirement through the Study Abroad Program.
5. Michele O'Connor mentioned the GenEd courses in China. "China has GenEd courses -10 of them-; is there a possibility, in future, of establishing a "Gen-Ed to Gen-Ed" exchange here? "Core to Core" was practiced in the past; this decision has to be taken to GEEC for further discussion.
6. Peter Jones asked: "*What can we do in future for inclement weather conditions?*" He added: "The problem is, when the university closes students miss class. What do teachers do? When is the make-up day? We can only have two study-days; we do not have extra days. How do we compensate? How much do we teach? Does the teacher repeat his/her lecture for those students who missed class? Is posting the lecture on Blackboard an alternative"
Wendy Kutchner explained: "In my experience compensating the teaching time was never measured."
Peter Jones stated: "We ask the athletes to check with the faculty first if there are days they will be missing class. We do not dictate to the faculty what needs to be done. The emphasis is on both sides."
Chris Dennis added: "We had 2 late openings, we did not have closings. We were lucky."
Suman Batish suggested: "The professor can post the lecture on Blackboard. But with the labs, what do you do?"
Chris Dennis: 'Attendance is an issue as well.'

Dan Liebermann: "The issue is about implementing a global policy; what do you recommend?"

Peter Jones: "Faculty who teach the class will make those students who miss the class learn as well."

Nilgün Anadolu-Okur: "I think it is my responsibility to make them learn as well as the others. Thus, if necessary I will repeat the lecture."

Suman Bashir: "How about adding additional "office hours"?"

Nilgün-Anadolu-Okur: "I would recommend adding a study- day for every two late openings, or two closings in spring semester."

Peter Jones: "We cannot add study days, there are only two."

Michele O'Connor: "Can we say that '*EPPC advises that teachers contact students, and students are told to contact their professors*'?"

As the discussion further continued, Eli Goldblatt stated; "First Year Writing courses and Religion courses are "attendance based" and they are very significant in that sense. The attendance is vital in these courses because the topic is difficult."

Bruce Conrad added that he teaches calculus, and the first year students find it hard so they do not attend. If they miss a class we know it. Assessment is not a problem in calculus. You have to have a definite goal. You have to make threats or they will not attend."

Peter Jones suggested that we all start thinking. "Do we want to have *dictates, recommendations, suggestions*, or "nothing"? Because now we have "nothing."

"Students will complain if they are penalized for missing a class. So what do we state in our syllabus? So that, we avoid complications...?" "Can we have recommendations about "emergency closings", and "late openings"? He added that he will look onto practices at similar institutions.

Eli Goldblatt added: "There is some reason for this conversation. Every program or department has to develop their own procedures in case of emergencies."

Peter Jones concluded that he will do some research on-line. "Syllabi will convey a message, but faculty needs a message to convey".

7. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nilgün Anadolu-Okur