

Educational Policies and Procedures Committee
Minutes
8 November 2010

Present: Mary Anne Gaffney (Chair), Suman Batish, Bruce Conrad, Jimmy Curran, Chris Dennis, Senior Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Peter Jones (visitor), Dan Liebermann, Catherine Schifter, CLA Dean Teresa Soufas, Karen M. Turner (scribe), and Kate Wingert.

1. Minutes from 10 October 2010 approved as written
2. Gaffney asked Soufas if a replacement appointment on EPPC for departed School of Education Dean Ken McGuire had been made. Soufas says she raised the issue at the Council of Deans. Will follow up with Interim Provost Dick Englert.

3. Policy Reviews

Senior Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Peter Jones asked EPPC to review the following policies:

- Leave of Absence (undergraduate)
- Repeating a Course (undergraduate)
- Academic Forgiveness (undergraduate)
- Withdrawal from Undergraduate and Graduate Classes
- Academic Standing (undergraduate)

It was agreed that EPPC would immediately review the Leave of Absence (LOA) policy; the others will be discussed at the 22 November 2010 meeting.

EPPC discussed the LOA policy. Several questions were raised concerning readmission after more than two semesters. Jones will seek clarification from Stephanie Gillin (consultant) on the following issues:

- Allowing for LOA longer than one year
- Limit on number of times students can apply for LOA
- Policy definition of LOA seems to imply a limit
- LOA approval transmittal statement must include language alerting the student that an extended absence period may mean that the department curriculum has changed and therefore s/he may not have the option of returning to the same program
- Why is there separate language for “medical reason?”

4. Online Student Feedback Form (SFF) Evaluation Update

Dennis provided background. Pilot done Fall '09. About 130 sections participated. 5263 were paper forms and 123 online. There was a small sample size. No statistically significant response difference between the two. Returns – 77% paper – 44% online, includes online courses. Plan to do larger sample size Fall'10. Rome, ROTC and TUJ online. Asked for associates and full professors

to volunteer. Faculty senate asked that NTTs and tenure-track faculty not participate in pilots. Three schools volunteered to do all forms online; they didn't want to do a mix of paper and online.

Jones says he hopes through the Fall '10 pilot, online responses can be compared to contemporary paper responses. He also hopes the pilot will help create a time series analysis where we can see faculty teaching on paper for four or five semesters and compare that to the online semester.

There was a discussion about the inability of faculty to respond to incorrect statements of fact in the SFFs. It was suggested that additional assessments such as peer review are needed. It was also raised that national research shows faculty of color and women tend to receive lower ranked student evaluations.

5. Future Directions for Online Courses

Jones met recently with Istvan L. Varkonyi and Julie Phillips (General Education), Vicki McGarvey (University College) and Dominique Klinger (Distance Learning/Summer Programs) to discuss online courses.

Several issues were raised during the EPPC discussion:

- To be competitive, intentionality is needed – can't just offer the courses that faculty want to teach but need to do analysis to see what courses students need
- There are more residential Temple students so there's an incentive for them to stay on campus through the summer if the appropriate courses are offered
- Nursing is going entirely online for undergrads; TUJ is looking to increase its online offerings
- TLTR2 chaired by Bob Aiken has drafted a white paper that's looking at the role of online courses and technology in general at Temple. Schifter is also a member of the committee. She was asked to share the draft with EPPC.
- All committees/groups involved such as TLTR2, EPPC, Provost's office, should explore the creation of a faculty committee that will look at quality standards for online courses modeled after the General Education and Writing Center faculty committees.
- Need university financial commitment for online courses

6. After the meeting...

During the online discussion we talked about an old Temple program. It was Virtual Temple. Turner found this link describing the program:

<http://www.temple.edu/chancellor/liacouras/news/online.html>

Meeting adjourned at 3:50p

Submitted by,
Karen M. Turner (meeting scribe)