

EPPC Minutes, January 23, 2012

Present: Keya Sageghipour, Zach Cetlin, Bruce Conrad, Wendy Kutchner, Peter Jones, Chris Dennis, Karen Turner, Eli Goldblatt, Catherine Schifter, Alessa Abruzzo, Judith Flaxman, Rob Drennan, Karen Turner.

Guests: Kathleen Richards and Amy _Hooper, Student Financial Services (SFS)

1. **Review of Minutes.** The minutes of December 12 were approved.

2. **Revisit of the Sustainability Certificate Proposal.** The proposal was approved. In doing so, the EPPC accepted the apologies of those who bypassed EPPC before presenting the certificate program to the president.

3. **Impact of new financial aid policies.** SFS (and the US Department of Education) considers a student to have completed a course if the student received a grade (A -- D-, P, or CR). Kathleen Richards told EPPC that, starting with the fall 2011 semester, SFS impose on students a goal of 80% course completion. Some excuses that have in the past sufficed for continuing eligibility for financial aid will no longer be accepted.

Each semester, each student's course completion rate--defined as cumulative credit hours completed divided by cumulative credit hours attempted--will be measured. This ratio will be calculated for students not currently receiving financial aid as well as those who are receiving financial aid benefits. Those whose ratio is less than 80%, based on fall 2011 data, will receive a Financial Aid Warning. If a student in Financial Aid Warning status is able to increase his or her completion ratio to at least 80% by the end of fall 2012 semester, the warning will be removed--but not forgotten. A student on Financial Aid Warning does not have reduced eligibility for financial aid.

At the conclusion of semesters subsequent to fall 2011, each student's completion rate will be recalculated and students whose course completion rate has fallen below 80% will be placed on Financial Aid Warning. For this purpose, courses taken during summers sessions will be included. (The calculation, for both summer sessions, will be made at the end of the second summer session.)

If a student on Financial Aid Warning does not achieve the goal of 80% course completion by the end of the subsequent semester, he or she may appeal directly to SFS. If the appeal is approved, the student is sent to his or her college advising service. Advisors will receive training on how to proceed, and Neal Conley, of the CST advising service, has made a calculator to help advisors to formulate Academic Plans. If the student and the advisor determine that the deficiency can be corrected in one semester, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation; his or her eligibility for financial aid will be unaffected. If the advisor agrees that it will take the student longer than one semester to achieve the goal, then the student and the advisor must an Academic Plan. For the duration of the Plan, the student's course completion rate will not be monitored. A student who does not meet his or her commitments specified in an Academic Plan

loses eligibility for financial aid.

No student will be permitted consecutive Financial Aid Warnings in two consecutive semesters, or to be given a third Warning. A student who is no longer eligible for a Financial Aid Warning and whose course completion rate is not satisfactory will not be eligible for financial aid until his or her course completion rate reaches 80%. For all undergraduate students, there is an absolute limit of 12 semesters of financial aid.

SFS has consulted the US Department of Education about students who withdraw from all of their courses during a semester (WE status). They cannot be offered amnesty; they need to negotiate an academic plan.

Students who have taken leaves of absence, or are being re-enrolled will not have a course completion rate until they have completed a semester after their return. Transfer students will, upon enrollment, be credited with a 100% course completion rate for all courses accepted for Temple University credit, regardless of their course completion rates at other institutions. Because the total amount of aid available to a student is limited, a student who changes majors may not be able to stay on financial aid until graduation.

For further information, we are referred to the SFS web site,
<http://www.temple.edu/sfs/standards.htm>

4. Update on Student Feedback Forms Chris Dennis reported that instructor reports for the Fall 2011 semester will be available on January 25 (on the TU Portal). On Thursday, Jan. 26, members of the CATE/SFF Committee will be available in TLC 111, 2:00--5:00 to discuss the recommendations of their white paper with interested faculty members.

5. Old Business

(a) Peter Jones informed the Committee that the recognition of faculty for mentorship will be approved.

(b) In response to a question about the online placement tests, Peter Jones said that online placement tests would continue to be used, but the scores would be supplemented by SAT/ACE data and GPAs in making placement decisions. Bruce Conrad and Eli Goldblatt expressed concerns that the online scores often placed students incorrectly. Peter responded that he had summoned the assistance of a committee that included Jim Degnan, Boris Datskovsky and Mia Luehrmann to make the placement process effective. Eli expressed a concern that students did not take the English placement test seriously enough, and were placed incorrectly as a result. It was agreed that the placement test should be presented so as to encourage students to cooperate in determining their correct placement in mathematics and English courses.

6. New Business

(a) Eli Goldblatt brought up the concern that as the University is pushing to bring in more money, we are reaching out to more international students and exploring more

online courses. If more international students come, then Temple needs to provide more support for them. He gave an example of a student he worked with today who was having serious problems getting into courses. And if more online courses, then we need to assure they are quality.

Keya Sagehipour noted there is an emphasis on financial recruitment for not the resources to support new foreign students. We talked about changes in the IEP and new leadership there, and what those changes have introduced.

Peter said he has recommended an international advisor to be housed in the Academic Advising Center who would be the point person for all International students. He said further that his office has supported more tutoring and writing center support for International students.

Alessa Abruzzo asked about ESL students supporting ELL students. Catherine noted that the College of Education does support the Writing Center with a number of TESOL students as instructors.

(b) Peter Jones brought up the dismissal policy. Previously there was a conditional dismissal policy, which EPPC agreed last year to eliminate. Now dismissal is dismissal!, with over 300 students being dismissed this fall. Peter suggested an Academic Recovery Program for a small number of students. We talked about this and agreed that this should be developed. Peter agreed to bring this to the Provost and draft a version to be considered by EPPC at the next meeting.

Peter further noted that Freshmen cannot get Academic Probation during their first year at Temple, but transfers can. He suggested offering transfers a window of 15 credits before probation option kicks in. Again, he agreed to bring back to EPPC a proposal for consideration.

Rob noted that transfers come to Temple thinking school is easy because they had an easy time at the community college they attended previously, then find Temple is not easy. He ask if there was anything to educate the transfers about the differences. Michelle noted that there are advising and orientation sessions for transfers, but they don't all attend.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.