Educational Policy Committee Minutes
October 27, 2021, 3-4:20pm, Williams 351

In Attendance: Mary Beth Deily (COB, chair); Linda Bell (RAS); Ginny McSwain (CAS); Susan Szczechanski (CAS); Nobuko Yamasaki (CAS); Paul Salerni (CAS); Lori McClain (DOS); Brook Sawyer (COE); Sabrina Jedlicka (RCEAS); Xiaosong (David) Peng (COB); Duncan Shober-Fernback (student, RCEAS); Paolo Bocchini (RCEAS); Ryan Gogerty (student, COB); Albert Xinliang Liu (COH); Henry Odi (D&I); Erica Hoelscher (COH); Sterling Salmini (student, CAS); Jennifer Jensen (Provost’s Office); and Steven Wilson (Registrar, secretary).
Guests: Heather Hosfield (University General Counsel), and Michelle Conrad (DSS).

1. Minutes from meeting of October 13, 2021

Approved, as amended, with regard to announcements:

a. Academic Affairs committee is focusing on interdisciplinary opportunities and improving university ranking.
b. Discussion of class restrictions . . . intended to preview and prepare for future committee discussions with Provost Urban with regard to Disability Services.

In Lehigh Launch discussion, the abbreviation is NOLS, not NOLES; also, it should be noted that NOLS is a co-curricular partner.

2. Announcements

3. Discussion of Disability Support Services

Presentation by McClain; Discussion, including Hosfield and Conrad

a. Scope of services
b. Trend in numbers
c. Accommodations
d. Resource needs

General comments, questions, and discussion from members. Discussion included the following: Can faculty be more involved in designing/deciding on accommodation? Would earlier notification help faculty meet students’ needs? Would the creation of a testing center meet the need? Should DAR seek donors to increase support? With regard to “academic flexibility,” what is the definition of/limit on “reasonable”? When and how would DSS policy conflict with legitimate faculty concerns for academic honesty?

Discussion will be continued with the Provost, at a future meeting. For reference, Deily assembled the following examples.

a. Permanent accommodations:
   • Extended time for testing/1.5 or 2.0.
• Use of a peer note taker.
• Audio recording of lectures.
• Assignments provided in advance so that student can plan ahead and lessen cognitive fatigue.
• Books and materials in an alternative format—please provide all written materials in an accessible electronic format.
• Academic flexibility, which is flexibility with attendance and, by extension, with deadlines and assessments…a worksheet will be sent to faculty under a separate email with more information about academic flexibility.

b. Temporary accommodations:
• Use a faculty-approved memory aid/note card when it does not fundamentally alter the nature or focus of the assessment.
• 24-hour extension to complete homework assignments.

4. Outstanding Items to be Carried Forward

a. Diversity and Inclusion: Now that the University’s DI&E plan has been released, EdPol will invite Henry Odi to report on the findings and goals in the plan.
b. R&P 3.7.3.1 Final Examinations: Proposed revision for cases where an emergency requires the cancelation of scheduled final exams.