**Educational Policy Committee**

**September 19, 2018**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members Attending:** Watkins (chair), Lotto, Zhang, Hoelscher, Gunter, Liu, Elroukh, Moreida, Piispanen, Wesson (ex officio), Phillips (ex officio), DeWeerth (ex officio).

**Committee Members Absent:** Bodzin (COE), Li (RCEAS), Webb (RCEAS)

**Guests:** Bell, Hanley (CBE), Jensen, McCLaind, Skutches, Tonkay, Wilson.

The committee chair called the meeting to order.

**Housekeeping**

* The chair welcomed two new undergraduate student members: Ryan Moreida (CBE) and Nicole Piispanen (RCEAS).
* The chair asked for approval of the minutes of the last meeting from 9/5/18. Prof. Gunter asked for two minor typo corrections. As revised, the minutes were approved unanimously.
* The chair asked for volunteers to serve as EdPol representative to the Standing Committee on Writing Instruction, to replace Prof. Lui, who has agreed to serve on the Course and Curriculum subcommittee. No volunteers forthcoming, the chair agreed to serve as needed.

**Main Discussion Topics**

* **Academic Forgiveness Policy?**

Associate Dean Tonkay said SOS sought guidance on whether or not Lehigh should implement an academic forgiveness policy for a semester, allowing retroactive withdraw, or forgiveness of a horrible semester, after the fact, at the student’s discretion. Often the reasons are related to medical or mental health issues. Some schools have them; we don’t. SOS gets requests, which are dealt with on ad hoc, case by case basis.

General consensus formed around four main guidelines: (1) There is no need for an automatic forgiveness policy; (2) Any discussion of potential forgiveness in SOS should have a high bar for accepting the underlying rationale; (3) Rather than dealing with requests as they arrive sporadically, health and mental health related cases ideally should be dealt with together all in one SOS meeting, to which specialists who have more insight into health matters can be invited for consultation and advice; (4) any granted forgiveness should be for all courses during a particular semester, not piecemeal.

* **CBE Core Curriculum Proposal.**

The chair indicated that while C&C subcommittee approved all individual new courses proposed by the CBE, there remained questions about the replacement of English 2 with two fractional credit 1.5 credit business communications courses (BUS 3 and BUS 203).

Vigorous discussion ensued, with input from the Chair of the CBE curriculum committee (Hanley), the Dept. of English, and the Writing Across Curriculum program. Director of the Dept. of English’s writing program (Lotto) and the Director of Writing Across Curriculum program (Skutches) expressed concern that CBE students gain good academic writing and research experience, which are the core of the ENG 2 course. Both agreed to help in defining the search criteria for hiring the CBE lead who will be responsible for design and oversight of the proposed communications sequence.

The program changes presented to EdPol apply to CBE students. It was noted that the program changes for IC students had not yet been approved by EdPol (for Computer Science and Business, and Integrated Business and Engineering); however, the changes are expected to be approved by RCEAS, paving the way for EdPol to consider them and thus keep the CBE core consistent for CBE and IC students.

A motion to send the proposal to EdPol’s Standing Subcommittee on Writing Instruction failed to receive a second.

The chair agreed to attach a cover statement to the CBE proposal indicating two areas of concern about the spillover implications across the university for fractional-credit courses, and about the reduced emphasis on writing.

Dean Phillips moved and Prof. Gunter seconded a motion to approve the CBE core curriculum changes for CBE students. The motion carried unanimously and will be sent to the Faculty Senate for final discussion and approval.

On motion and second, proposal to adjourn accepted by consent.