

Education Policy Committee Minutes February 12, 2026

Attendance: Marina Puzakova, Daniel Babcock, Kelly Austin, Khurram Hussain, Lucy Napper, Terry-Ann Jones, Todd Watkins, Tom Hammond, Edmund Webb, Lori McClaind, Michael Gusmano, Olivia Grimes, Derick Brown, Mariana Roldan, Clinton Graham, Paolo Bocchini, Erica Hoelscher, Lifang He, Tim Uhrich, Joanna Mishtal, Linda Bell.

Agenda and Discussion

1. **Approval of Minutes 1/29/2026.** No changes or additions.
2. **New courses and curriculum discussion** with Kelly Austin. Reviewed the first of the large batches of CIM items that will come from College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Many of the course changes are routine. There are some course deactivations being done to change the home department for the course. Some courses have attribute adjustments. There is a set that is designed to clean up the distinction between special topics and independent study by utilizing a common numbering scheme. Some course changes are for prerequisite streamlining and to increase clarity; these are not cases of changing prerequisites, only cleaning up language. There are some new courses, including some on AI. There are also some true deactivations. It was noted that CAS implemented a policy that advancing new courses requires that they are either to be taught by a new faculty member or have already been taught provisionally for a few semesters by an existing faculty member. This is to prevent premature advancement of new courses that cannot be taught in the near term due to faculty changes. Lastly, there were some more new courses from the College of Health. All courses approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Program level CIM items discussion** with Kelly Austin. For the MSE program, there was course shuffling and ensuring that shuffling will work for existing students. This comes with a deduction of total credits for the degree by 1 to 129. For the Entrepreneurship minor, there was clean up and updates to capstone offerings. It was also necessary to remove some listed courses because of deactivation; however, there were no change to required courses for the program. The Earth and Environmental Science program has 2 offerings of degree (BA and BS); both degree programs experienced the same changes: to add collateral options (or clarifying previously listed ones), to make some changes in course numbering, and to perform some generalization of required courses (e.g., "PHYS 005 or higher"). The Music BA program had a change in one of its foundation courses such that Keyboard Skills has been replaced with either Class Piano for Beginners or private piano study. All programs approved by unanimous vote.
4. **Updates.** The proposed changes regarding leave of absence were approved by the faculty Senate. Regarding R&P 3.7.2 about common hour exams, a previously created

survey has had some questions changed, and a new deadline has been set up of 2/20 for faculty to respond. The surveys have been sent out.

5. **Special topics and provisional courses.** We received answer that yes, we can use Jira to establish a workflow to achieve what is desired. Briefly, the idea is to avoid having to put Special Topics courses through the full review process for catalog but still have a way to submit those courses for faculty review; this is to avoid confusion for students that arises from there being many listed elective courses that actually are not offered any longer. So, RAS can build a workflow to enable this process. There were a number of questions and concerns discussed; for example, why does this need to go beyond college review? Response: it typically would not; it would only if the college policy committee flagged a concern. Essentially, we want to offer these things more than 2 times without having to submit to CIM. The proposed changes will also separate Special Topics into a separate section so separate rules can be applied. The changes proposed for provisional courses include changing from 2 to 3 offerings before CIM approval is required. There was consensus around the idea that special topics and provisional courses should change to 4 offerings. Some proposed that review should end at the associate dean. It was also noted that any limit for the number of times offered prior to CIM review will still result in courses running up against this. There was related discussion about the course deactivation protocols. We will revisit this to start next meeting.