

Educational Policy Committee Minutes November 14, 2024

Fully Remote

Attendance: Fathima Wakeel, Michael Dills-Allen, Kelly Austin, Ahmed Rahman, Andreea Kiss, Angela Brown, Derick Brown, Joanna Mishtal, Linda Bell, Lori McClained, Lucy Napper, Luke Eva, Michael Gusmano, Nandini Deo, Naomi Rothman, Stacy DeVivo, Tom Hammond, Wenyan Feng, Yue Yu.

1. Approval of October 31 minutes (attached)

Delayed. Will be approved next time.

2. Volunteers for minute-taking for Spring 2025 meetings

Encouraged students and faculty volunteers to register for minute-taking in the coming semester.

3. Check in with committee working on policies relating to 4+1 programs (Michael Dills-Allen)

The committee is working on it. Should have recommendation in February.

4. Discussion of R&P 3.2.2.1 - Need clarification on why classes should be cross listed. This is being used for inappropriate reasons such as marketing. (Michael Dills-Allen, Kelly Austin, Jesseca Marsh) – 22 mins

We never provide the reason why a class should be cross listed. It would improve the clarity if a reason is provided for cross-listing classes. For instance, we have classes cross-listed 6 or 7 times with 6 or 7 subject codes. It causes problems and confusions among students.

There are some debates on the importance of cross-listing classes. Some members believe that cross-listing class is a signal to students about pedagogy of course. So they know that there is something offered in the class that is interdisciplinary. From that point of view, sitting in a course with more subject codes would be exciting, and it is part of an interdisciplinary education. For faculty, we also need cross-listed classes. It would help to preserve seats and show their capability to teach interdisciplinary. It would also help the joint hired faculty to represent themselves and to train interdisciplinary students.

Michael Dills-Allen has provided more clarification and reasoning. Too many subject codes are a stretch. Transcript should tell the story about student's education. To get an interdisciplinary education, engineering students should take business classes, and cross-listed courses will make their transcript less interdisciplinary. Other institutions (e.g., Kenyon) are developing that too.

<https://www.kenyon.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-the-provost/governance/curricular-policy-committee-cpc/cpc-course-approval-procedures/cross-and-double-listing-courses/>

This policy is not supposed to stop cross lists, just need to define why.

The discussion is not finished today. Fathima will share a memo from Linda Bell to everybody to review.

5. Discuss 3.15.1 (Summer Session) and 3.15.2 (Winter Intersession) – 10 mins

A reading of 3.15.1 happened in the faculty senate during the April meeting, but it was not approved yet. Will send them to the senate and ask for a second reading. Michael Dills-Allen provides clarification on why summer session should be with at most 4 credits.

6. Discuss catalog policy proposal (Michael Dills-Allen) -20 mins

University does not have a policy on which catalog a student should follow. Some students are still using 1963 catalog. A clearly listed out catalog should be provided, especially for the undergraduate level.

There are some discussions on clarification and decision makers for waivers and exceptions. Issues to address are also discussed, for students who go on a leave of absence, students have no attendance for more than a semester, and students who want a major that is not in their catalog. For students who go on a leave of absence, it would be more reasonable to change the limit to two years. Anything beyond that needs would need an approval for exception. Languages of the proposal are also discussed and refined.

Will wait for the rationale to discuss next time and vote.

7. Discussion of R&P 1.3.2.1 revision (Educational Policy Committee) - 18 mins

From Faculty Senate: “We also understand that you are taking a look at the R&P description for EdPol, and we would recommend that you align EdPol with GRC and the Faculty Senate with respect to membership and voting rights: allowing untenured faculty members to serve (as they do on both the Faculty Senate and GRC) and making the associate deans and provost ex-officio/non-voting members.”

We need to put the paragraph about study abroad back in. A representative from the faculty senate will be visited to join the meeting during spring. We already had discussion on why we don't want to allow untenured faculty members to serve.

Some members feel that the associate deans and provost ex-officio should not vote, just to avoid double voting and potential conflict of interests. One member stated that associate deans do not have the opportunity to vote during departmental discussions, so they should have the opportunity to vote in Ed Pol. Everybody seems to agree on including the associate deans and provost ex-officio, but not all agree to have them participate as voting members. One member asked why Faculty Senate recommended aligning Ed Pol with GRC in terms of voting rights of members, so Fathima agreed to invite Faculty Senate leadership to a future Ed Pol meeting for further discussion.

8. Discussion of R&P 3.6 - Need clarification that special topics are a form of provisional class as this is being used as a work around in some areas. (Michael Dills-Allen) – 10 mins

People are using special topic courses as provisional courses. So this is a loophole in the rule. Members provide their visions on this subject: Sometimes these courses are taught by visiting faculty members. Moreover, the rule that provisional courses can only be offered twice is too limited. The underlying problem is: how many times a course can be offered without going to a college review.

Discussion will continue next time. Possibly this policy and the approval policy need to be updated.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Yue Yu