

Educational Policy Committee Agenda

February 6, 2025

Only via Zoom

In (virtual) attendance: Kelly Austin, Linda Bell, Paolo Bocchini, Angela Brown, Derick Brown, Aaron Cebrero, Nandini Deo, Michael Dills-Allen, Luke Eva, Wenyan Feng, Michael Gusmano, Tom Hammond, Terry-Ann Jones, Linda Lowe-Krentz, Jessecae Marsh, Lori McClaind, Ginny McSwain, Joanna Mishtal, Henry Odi, Michaela Ott, Marina Puzakova, Armando Quiroz, Ahmed Rahman, Naomi Rothman, Corrie Vakil, Yue Yu, Fathima Wakeel, Dylan Young.

1. Approval of December 5 minutes (attached)

No issues were raised, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Update on Ed Pol membership

Chair Wakeel shows the updated membership of the committee, and the new members introduce themselves: Marina Puzakova (Chair Elect), Linda Lowe-Krentz, Corrie Vakil (student representative), Dylan Young (student), Armando Quiroz (student), Michaela Ott (student).

3. Discussion and approval of course proposals (attached)

Most of the course proposals evaluated by the Course and Curriculum Subcommittee were just an attempt to reharmonize the use of courses for internships and similar activities across colleges, and some renumbering required to accommodate that. Several other course changes reflected other forms of housekeeping. The few remaining proposals were due to new courses created or adjusted because of new faculty hiring.

Several other proposals were program proposals to reflect new minors in the College of Health and other propose changes to the requirements for programs in CSE (removing Math and Physics requirements, already discussed with the departments offering the courses).

Another proposal was to reduce by one the number of HSS credits required in RCEAS and include some additional courses in the COH; the depth requirement is also removed. Moreover, the attribute description are changed to match the new attributes used by CAS.

The committee unanimously approved all the changes evaluated and recommended by the Course and Curriculum Subcommittee.

4. Discussion of R&P 3.2.2.1 – Cross-listing (memo attached)

The current version of R&P does not have a specific definition of what a cross-listed course is. A memo available on Coursesite describe guidelines used for cross-listing, even if they are not included in R&P yet.

There is a suggestion to replace “department” in the first point of the definition in the memo with “departments, programs, or units,” supported by other members of the committee.

There is a proposal to treat in the same way provisional and permanent courses moving forward.

There was a discussion on whether it is appropriate to provide quantitative guidance on how much overlap should there be between a course and a subject code to allow cross-listing. The use of cross-listing can also reflect the need to show which courses are approved as electives for a program. The Registrar points out that to avoid the challenge of updating CIM for every change in the list of approved electives, the catalog can just refer to a generic “list of approved courses,” which is periodically updated by the program faculty and shared with the Registrar’s office, without the need to update CIM.

The Registrar indicated that in some cases cross-listing was done without going through proper CIM approval.

The Registrar also points out that the absence of guidance in R&P generates tension between the Registrar’s office and the departments.

There are several requests for clarifications about the nature of the issue, and how courses can be cross-listed in Lehigh’s catalog, but the cross-list is not reflected in CIM.

The Registrar says that courses that are cross-listed are confusing for students, because the content becomes less clear. Moreover, the transcripts may not reflect the educational journey.

It is pointed out that these two issues are different from the administrative inconsistencies between the catalog and CIM and the fact that departments put courses in the line schedule that were not approved.

Chair Wakeel volunteered to prepare language for possible inclusion in R&P.

A proposal was made to allow cross-listing of provisional courses as long they are appropriately reviewed and approved for the Fall semester, as we still need to update the cross-listing policy in R & P. The committee unanimously voted to approve this motion.

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

The current R&P prevents students from taking any 400-level course in a semester when they overload. It is proposed to remove this constraint. It is also proposed to remove the cap to 6 credits at the 400-level that can be reserved for graduate school and to allow 400-level courses also for sophomores, at least those in the 4+1 program.

The remaining points in the agenda were not discussed for time constraints.