Academic Planning Faculty Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair: Dr. Dan Greenberg  
Date: February 4, 2022, at 1:00 pm  
Location: Zoom  
Present: David Hansen, Bob Mignone, Amy Rogers, Thomas Spade, Dan Greenberg, Gracie Pace, Piotr Gaibas, Simon Lewis, Sebastian van Delden, and Mark Del Mastro

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Dan Greenberg at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

First Agenda Item – Biomedical Engineering Proposal

Dr. Sebastian van Delden, Dean, School of Sciences and Mathematics, began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the historical process of implementing the current engineering programs offered at the College. The presentation concluded with Sebastian underscoring the need to grow additional programs to meet the needs of surrounding industries. He noted that students are drawn to the College because of its location and these programs will be attracting students to fill these needs. Sebastian presented a 10-year plan for implementing new engineering programs including a Biomedical Engineering program. The plan includes three phases with Phase 1 to establish the program, Phase 2 to grow the program, and Phase 3 to launch a new school.

Sebastian fielded several questions from the committee members that led to a consensus that this initiative could equip the College to provide meaningful programs that address the market needs while maintaining liberal arts distinction.

Vote passed to support the program with five yes and one abstention.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rogers  
Academic Planning Committee Member

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Amy
Committee Members:
DeHaan, Kathleen - Communication
Hansen, David - Management and Marketing
Mignone, Bob - Mathematics
Radakovic, Nenad - Teacher Education
Rogers, Amy - Chem and Biochem
Spade, Thomas – Accounting and Legal Studies
Pace, Gracie - Student rep.

1) ENFL: Reconsideration of the English Film and Literature Minor:
   Prior talk: there was a concern about the possibility to get the minor without taking any film courses. The chair mentioned that there is a precedent (Latin American and Caribbean Studies minor- the minor can be completed without taking any Caribbean studies courses). There was a discussion about whether the title is misleading. Suggestion: adding a note to Curriculog about our concern. The chair agreed to add the note.

   Proposal was unanimously accepted.

2) Stand-alone school of Health Sciences: Not to vote but were asked by the Provost to discuss it.
   Questions regarding the logic for separate school: more cost in terms of administration and faculty lines. Also concern about being more siloed (adding a separate school). The consensus is that the report doesn’t provide strong enough argument for having the separate school. There were also concerns about rigor of public health program based on the lack of math and science classes. There needs to be more discussion on the focus of the program because public health has many components.

3) Question from Gracie Page: student government voted on incorporating American Sign Language into the College curriculum. How could the program be developed?

   Chair: Proposal to create courses would have to come out of School of Languages Cultures and World Affairs. It involves finding the budget, staff, faculty, etc. General education language requirement would have to be met- four courses up to 202 level.
I. **New Business**
   A. Discussion: Rebranding of Gen Ed

Anthony Green (guest) talked about rebranding of gen ed stemming from Pillar Two Committee with the focus on experiential learning. The question is: what would be a way to repackage the requirements (rebrand) and what does it look like? Should we follow models from Clemson and William and Mary, etc. Is this something we should think about? Maybe having focus groups with students about gen ed to see to what extent the format of gen eds is the factor in deciding to come C of C.

Question from the Chair: Is rebranding enough to make the gen ed program appealing?

David Hansen as a business professor states that gen ed courses is the basis for problem solving, creativity, and systems thinking. Novelty comes from the breadth of knowledge.

Dan Greenberg: How do we rebrand/communicate gen ed/liberal arts so that we convey the message of their importance better to students?

Another question: How does experiential learning fit into the gen eds? How would you incorporate it into the meaningful way?

This depends on the definition of experiential learning.

Anthony Greene: experiential learning assignments are in many FYE classes and other classes. What is experiential learning? According to Jim Allison, there is a wide definition of experiential learning and over 90% of C of C students have had some form of experiential learning. The definition is based on NSSE 6 High Impact Practices. Also, experiential learning is a continuum.

Gracie Pace suggested that experiential learning should be implemented within different
departments (on the program level rather than in gen eds)

Another question is that the gen ed core consists of different areas (e.g. math and natural sciences). Is there an overarching theme?

David Hansen mentioned that broad themes could work well in integrating different gen ed courses. Also, there is overlap with REI and strategic planning. Important to look at the big picture to go beyond the box checking exercise. Gracie Page in the rebranding efforts makes sure that students know how critical general education is.

Meeting ended at 10:21
Committee Members:

DeHaan, Kathleen - Communication
Hansen, David - Management and Marketing
Mignone, Bob - Mathematics
Radakovic, Nenad - Teacher Education
Rogers, Amy - Chemistry and Biochemistry
Spade, Thomas – Accounting and Legal Studies
Pace, Gracie - Student representative


I. New Business
   A. Greeting and Introductions
   B. Election of Committee Secretary: Nenad Radakovic (TEDU) elected secretary in the Fall, Kathy DeHaan elected secretary in the Spring
   C. Update on Process: new process is to vet the proposals early (before other committees). At the end of the process, the academic planning will be voting one more time.

II. Proposals for Review and Vote
   A. New Minor: Business Applications of Weather and Climate (BAWC)
      Proposal unanimously approved
   B. Termination of Minor: Business Language in French (BLFR)
      The chair specified that the courses will still be offered.
      Proposal unanimously approved
   C. New Major: Software Engineering, B.S. (with required language minor)
      The committee members were concerned whether adding the language minor requirement may exclude some students. In addition, the reason why some minors were included and some were excluded from the program was not clear to the members.
      5 votes against, 2 for, proposal was not approved
   D. New Major: Special Education, B.S. (SPED)
      Proposal unanimously approved
   E. New Major: Statistics, B.S. (MATH)
      Proposal unanimously approved
Minutes

Committee Members:

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Mignone, Bob - Mathematics
Radakovic, Nenad - Teacher Education
Rogers, Amy - Chemistry and Biochemistry
Spade, Thomas – Accounting and Legal Studies
Pace, Gracie- Student representative

Guests: Morgan Koerner and Anthony Greene

1) Race Equity and Inclusion requirement (REI) proposal (Morgan Koerner and Anthony Greene):
There was a question/comment about whether the science majors will be able to fit the requirement into their course-heavy majors. The response was that there are many ways to make double counting possible (gen. eds, FYEs, etc.)

Proposal was unanimously accepted.

2) TEDU minor: The purpose of the discussion is not to vote on the proposal but to see what questions and concerns the committee has about the proposal. The members welcomed the proposal, but questioned the rationale behind it. Members felt that the rationale would be stronger if the originator argued that this major would be popular outside of TEDU since there are many ways that education minor could complement different majors.