

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Annual Report of the Educational Policy Committee to Faculty Council
April 15, 2011

Membership:

Andrea K. Biddle (Chair, Health Policy and Management; At-Large, 2011); Chris Derrickson (University Registrar, ex-officio); Beverly Foster (Nursing; At-Large, 2011); Susan Havala Hobbs (Health Policy and Management; At-Large, 2012); Julie Justice (Education; At-Large, 2013); Susan Klebanow (Music; At-Large, 2012); Bobbi Owen (College of Arts and Sciences; ex-officio); Andrew J. Perrin (Sociology; At-Large, 2012); Michael Salemi (Economics; At-Large, 2013); Paul Shorkey (Undergraduate Student, 2011); Jay Smith (History; At-Large, 2013); Cecil Wooten (Classics; At-Large, 2011); Thomas Winkler (Graduate Student, 2011).

Meetings:

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) met monthly: October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 2, and April 13. The January meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather and inability to set up a public meeting law-compliant teleconference. Meetings were 90 minutes in length and held from 9:15-10:45 a.m. in 200B Carr and 3020 Steele Hall. A future meeting to plan for membership and leadership transition is proposed for May 4, 2011. Minutes of meetings are posted on the Faculty Council website and will be transitioned to Sakai in early summer 2011.

Committee Charge:

“The committee is concerned with those matters of educational policy and its implementation as to which the Faculty Council possess legislative powers by delegation from the General faculty under Article II of the Code. The committee’s function is advisory to the Faculty Council... (article 4.6, Faculty Code of University Governance).”

Summary of Activities:

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the EPC considered the following topics or took the following actions:

- 1.) Approved revisions to the Making Connections Curriculum, which were approved by the Faculty Council (Resolution 2010-6 approved at December 17, 2010 meeting).
- 2.) Approved proposal to replace ENGL 101/102 with ENGL 105 for all students matriculating in the fall semester 2012. See discussion below.
- 3.) Developed and approved language change to UNC Final Exam Policy per request of Friday Center Administrative Board (April 13, 2011 meeting). See discussion below.
- 4.) Considered request to rename Registrar Policy Memorandums as “University Academic Policy Memorandums” (suggested) to make them more accessible to appropriate users. This action supports a larger university-wide effort (chaired by Dwayne Pinkney) to consolidate university-level policies into a single repository, with more user-accessible indexing and search capabilities. Additionally, the EPC approved a wording change to University Registrar’s Policy Memo No. 4 to clarify course numbering (Item 2b). Specifically, course numbers 700-899 will be designated “graduate only, undergraduate students may enroll by exception (see department/school policy on exception)” and 900-999 “graduate only, no exceptions.” This change and a concomitant programming change to Connect Carolina will allow undergraduate grades to be correctly recorded (A-F) for classes at these levels and allow department flexibility to enroll exceptional undergraduate students in graduate

level courses.

- 5.) Constituted joint EPC/Committee on Student Conduct (COSC) subcommittee to analyze results of faculty Honor Court survey conducted during spring semester 2010. Bev Foster and Jay Smith will represent the EPC; one member has been recruited from COSC and negotiations are ongoing with another member. Melinda Manning and the Chair of the Honor Court are supportive of the effort. Subcommittee is tasked to report back to the EPC/COSC in Fall 2011; report will be made the Faculty Council during 2011-2012 academic year.
- 6.) Considered and discussed request to implement a grade forgiveness policy. An undergraduate student requested that students be allowed to drop the lowest grade (in non-required or non-major courses) from the transcript at graduation. The EPC was grateful to the student for the thoughtful proposal, which had not been previously considered. Although other institutions have such policies, our peer-institutions (e.g., Michigan, UC Berkeley) do not. Substantial discussion ensued but the proposal was declined.
- 7.) Appointed members of the Enhanced Grading Task Force Implementation Committee (Andrew Perrin, Chair, Sociology; Donna Gilleskie, Economics; Christian Iliadis, Physics). Ms. Holly Boardman (Student Body President) appointed a student representative. Professor Perrin will report to the Council on April 15, 2011.
- 8.) Discussed concerns raised by NCAA and Honor Court concerning student athletes.
- 9.) Considered and approved requests for transcript notations for extant certificate programs and for the McNair Scholars Program.

Two items merit additional discussion and require Faculty Council action

Approval of ENGL105 to replace ENGL101/102

Currently, students who have not exempted from composition requirements via Advanced Placement (AP) credits, International Baccalaureate (IB) scores, or by SAT or ACT scores (by examination or BE) are required to take ENGL101 and ENGL102. Approximately 60% of students are exempt from ENGL101 and 40% are exempt from ENGL102. Students who are covered by the NC Articulation Agreement (i.e., transfer to UNC-Chapel Hill with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Sciences degree from a North Carolina Community College) are exempt from both ENGL101 and ENGL 102. Faculty have found that students who exempt from these two courses are generally unprepared for college-level expository writing, writing within their major disciplines, and in using university-level research resources.

To address this need, the Writing Program of the Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Administrative Board of the College proposes to replace these courses with a new 3-unit course, ENGL105; this proposal was approved on March 30, 2011 by the Administrative Board. This proposed course would be required of all students in the entering freshman class of 2012; students would not be able to exempt out on the basis of AP, IB, or BE credits (students subject to the NC Articulation Agreement would continue to be exempt). Honors' sections of 105 (ENGL 105I or ENGL105H) and sections tailored to specific disciplines would be available to challenge high-achieving entering students. Originally conceived as a 4-unit course, Dean Gil has requested approval of a 3-unit ENGL105 course to address university constraints.

At the April 13, 2011, EPC meeting, the proposal resulted in a lively discussion, with the following resolution adopted by the EPC: "The EPC approves, in concept, Dean Gil's recommendation for a 3-credit ENGL 105 composition course to be required of all incoming first-year students except those covered under the North Carolina articulation agreement. EPC recognizes the additional benefits of the proposed four-credit option, but cognizant of constraints and mindful of the benefits of the proposal, endorses the development by the Department of English and Comparative Literature of a three-credit option to be approved by the Administrative Board of the College. This resolution is contingent upon the Department of English and Comparative Literature's documented willingness to produce a high-quality, three-credit course that meets the requirement." Dr. Beverly Taylor, Chair, provided her endorsement (see email dated April 13, 2011) of the 3-unit version of the course.

To implement this policy as planned with class that matriculates in 2012, it is necessary to approve and implement this policy now so that high school guidance counselors can assist rising seniors in college planning for fall 2011 applications. Additionally, rising high school juniors and sophomores are now planning their coursework for the next two years. We are mindful that this proposal comes to the Faculty Council at the 11th hour and without appropriate legislative language but ask for endorsement. If endorsed, the EPC Chair and Professor Ferrell will craft appropriate legislative language to be presented for consideration to the Faculty Executive Committee at its May 2011 meeting.

Language Change to UNC Final Exam Policy

Earlier this year, the Friday Center Administrative Board requested a language change to the Final Examination Policy to accommodate the realities of its Carolina Course Online and Self-Paced Courses. The current language is inappropriate for courses taught in the distance format. Because other units on campus use the distance education format to teach undergraduate courses, the EPC expanded the language to include courses taught in other departments or schools. At its April 13, 2011, meeting, the EPC approved the following language: "For any University undergraduate courses offered entirely online or via other distance modalities, exams will be offered and must be completed during the scheduled final examination period, but requirements concerning the time of day and place of the exam will be appropriate to the course's mode of delivery. Courses offered via the Friday Center's Self-Paced Courses program are exempt from both the time and place requirements of the exam policy and the requirement that exams be held during the scheduled final examination period."

The next step in the process is to obtain Faculty Council approval.

Prepared by Andrea K. Biddle, EPC Chair, April 13, 2011.