Call to Order: 1:01 p.m.

**ACTIONS OF MEETING**

**Agenda Item 1:** Review of December 11, 2015 EPPC meeting minutes

**Discussion:** None

**Action Taken:** Approved

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A

---

**Agenda Item 2:** Request to approve the Discontinuation of the Alternate Entry (AE) MSN Option; Discontinuation of the RN/MSN Option; Discontinuation of Existing Concentrations within the MSN: Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner; Discontinuation of Existing Certificates: Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner

Unit: College of Nursing

Representative: Michelle Skipper, Robin Webb Corbett

**Discussion:** Professor Corbett identified the MSN programs that are being eliminated as a result of the establishment of the DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice). She also described the rationale for the closure of the AE (Alternate Entry MSN), the RN (Registered Nurse) to MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) and its existing Nurse Practitioner Concentrations in AGNP (Adult/Gerontology) and FNP (Family). The Post-Master’s AGNP and FNP Certificates are also being discontinued. All students in these MSN programs have matriculated and faculty have been reassigned to the DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program.

**Action Taken:** Motion approved

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A

---

**Agenda Item 3:** Request to approve the authorization to plan a new degree program: MA in Hispanic Studies

Unit: Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Representative: Benjamin Fraser

**Discussion:** Professor Fraser described the history of the proposed MA in Hispanic Studies and its uniqueness in the UNC system in making all courses leading to the degree available through distance education (beginning in the second year of the program’s establishment). The program has been designed to respond to the job market of the 21st
century and is distinctive in 1) increasing access to education for those already employed to upgrade their skills and who may not live near a university, 2) providing engaged research experiences adaptable to the professional needs of each student, and 3) offering a curriculum that is distinctive in the design of its core and advanced courses and its non-traditional approach, which develops the language and cultural competencies employers increasingly demand. Two courses per semester will be offered entirely through DE for students employed full-time who will be enrolled in this program part-time. Two courses will be available on campus for traditional, full-time students, who will also take the DE classes. Courses will be rotated so that full-time students can graduate in three semesters and students only taking DE courses will be able to complete the MA in three years (at two courses per semester) or five and one-half years (at one course per semester). Beginning in the second year and if enrollment permits, at least one DE course will be offered in the second summer session in order to reduce the time to completion to four years for part-time DE students. The new MA program uses existing faculty in Foreign Languages and Literature and requires the creation of seven new graduate-level classes. Six new graduate assistants will be needed each year in addition to the two Hispanic Studies graduate assistantships currently managed by the MAIS program for a total of eight. Fraser noted that there are 83 students enrolled in the undergraduate major, which will help support the proposed graduate program.

**Action Taken:** The committee commended Professor Fraser on the vision and details of the plan for the proposed MA. EPPC urged him to continue to advocate strongly for maintaining the current number of faculty positions in Foreign Languages and Literature and for requesting the level of funding within the plan for six graduate assistantships and two out-of-state tuition waivers annually. The motion was approved.

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A

---

**Agenda Item 4: Program Review Discussion**

**Representative:** Susan Beck-Frazier and Kristen Dreyfus

**Discussion:** Director Beck-Frazier reviewed the process for periodic academic program reviews in the University, and pointed out that Institutional Assessment is looking at how academic units are responding to recommendations made by outside reviewers. Sometimes unit responses are too general. Political Science was the first unit to use the new model approved by the Faculty Senate, which lists the people responsible in a timeline, and utilizes the Smart Rubric. The process and timeline have been clarified so that units remain informed and focused. There is now a one-year follow-up and then a three-year update by IPAR in order for units to better track the academic review calendar and the progress being made on recommended improvements. Economics will be the first unit to go through the most recent revisions and the new rubric for academic program review. EPPC’s participation in the pilot study is helping in the transition to the new academic review guidelines and procedures. Professor Chaney noted that EPPC is now involved in the academic review process, from the beginning until the final review by Academic Council. The committee is well informed at all stages of the process. Director Reaves pointed out that all documents are now internally reviewed before being sent out to independent evaluators.

**Action Taken:** N/A

**Assigned additional duties to:** Committee members were assigned to academic program reviews beginning in fall 2016: Donna Kain will review the Certificate Program in the School of Social Work; Debra Jordan will review the THCAS Interdisciplinary Programs, and Tom McConnell will review the PhD program in Nursing

---

**Agenda Item 5: Discussion regarding the University Studies Program**

**Representative:** Rondall Rice

**Discussion:** Dr. Rice discussed the unique nature of ECU’s bachelor degree program in University Studies. The Faculty Oversight Committee (FOC) is unique in interdisciplinary programs due to the fact that it looks at every
degree proposal and assesses the proposals in depth. There were 400 BSUS majors this past December. In addition, 39 graduated in the fall 2015, and there are 390 majors today. Of these, 54 students are in the capstone course for graduating seniors. Rice noted that University Studies has just added another permanent advisor and graduate assistant. The College has recently signed a bilateral agreement with Fort Bragg, that will help veterans to complete their education and will probably lead to further growth for BSUS. He noted that our transfer-friendly degree appeals to the military.

Rice pointed out that the BSUS oversight committee helps students to customize and complete their degrees with the assistance of units across campus. They assist in naming thematic core titles for students that reflect course work and the student’s interests and goals. He stated that ECU has an articulation agreement with Fayetteville Technical College for matriculation of qualified military personnel into the BS in University Studies. Rice recognized that most programs like that at ECU are housed in Arts and Sciences, Independent Studies, Academic Affairs, or University Colleges. Rice stated that when a program like ours remains independent, there is the general perception that it operates fairly, without favoring one college or another.

**Action Taken:** N/A

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Announcement 1:** Update on the subcommittee to draft guidelines for Provisional Codes

Professor Bailey does not have an update at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Friday, February 12 at 1:00 p.m. 142 Rawl Annex.