

Educational Policies and Planning Committee

East Carolina University Faculty Senate

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 11th, 2019, Rawl Annex 142

In attendance: Mark Bowler, Tom McConnell, Michael Dingfelder, George Bailey, Heidi Bonner, John Collins, Molly McConnell

I. Call to Order/Announcements

II. Approval of September 13th Meeting Minutes

<https://collab.ecu.edu/sites/facultysenate/eppc/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Request to Establish – Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

Unit: Department of Occupational Therapy

Representatives: Dr. Denise Donica (donicad@ecu.edu)

<https://collab.ecu.edu/sites/facultysenate/eppc/SitePages/Home.aspx>

<https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:4860/form>

Dr. Donica discussed the programs. Tom McConnell asked about the number of PhD programs in the discipline. There are only about 130 in the country. Only six per term are allowed to go to the ODT level. The department is working with that timing in developing the program. Initially when the plan was submitted, the ODT was meant to replace the MS because it was anticipated that the ODT would be necessary for practitioners, however that situation changed during the time the ODT was in development at ECU. At this point, the department is planning to add the ODT and keep the MS. The faculty lines in the request to establish are supported by the Dean and Vice Chancellor. Graduate assistantships will be available as well.

Tom McConnell moved to approve. Heidi Bonner seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Academic Program Review Response – Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Biological Sciences

Unit: IPAR

Representative: Dr. Tom McConnell (MCCONNELLT@ecu.edu); Dr. Xiaoping Pan (panx@ecu.edu)

<https://collab.ecu.edu/sites/facultysenate/eppc/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The report included that more faculty are needed, particularly in biology. A name change was suggested. A definition of “interdisciplinary” was added with additional details about the goals. Reviewers also suggested creating more opportunities for interaction among faculty. Program-wide recruiting is necessary and planned. Tom knows the various changes that the program has gone through in terms of leadership. Tom acknowledged that there are a few things that will need to be dealt with ongoing, but review report should go through now to

allow for changes to move forward. The program had not been reviewed before in its 20 years. Mark Bowler commented on issues with the formatting inconsistencies in the document.

Donna Kain moved to approve the report; Tom McConnell seconded. Motion passed.

V. Request to Establish –BS in Professional Writing and Information Design

Unit: Department of English

Representative(s): Dr. Donna Kain (kaind@ecu.edu), Wendy Sharer (sharerw@ecu.edu)

<https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:5044/form 1:35>

Questions were raised about the need for the program and the planned increase in the number of students over several years. The committee asked whether the enrollment growth was realistic if new faculty lines requested were not provided. The representatives responded that the Dean and Provost are supportive of the program and of providing faculty lines in the future. The lines are not needed immediately. Most of the courses in the program are already offered in the English department with only two new courses added for the BS. Committee members commented that regardless of support expressed by the Dean and Provost, we are currently under a hiring freeze and there are no guarantees. The representative acknowledged that to support 60 students in year four of the program, the department would need additional faculty. Alternatively, the growth would need to be capped.

Tom McConnell moved to approve. Heidi Bonner seconded. The motion passed with one abstention (Kain).

VI. Updates

APR Status Reports. Some of us will be attending another meeting about the revisions to the APR. Committee members expressed concern that additional work is being added to the review process unnecessarily. We need to know what information the additions are seeking and the purpose for some the information will serve. Chair Mark Bowler noted that the research section, which is where the most changes are being suggested, is not required by some units because of accreditation reviews that are concerned exclusively with instruction. If the purpose of the reviews is for the academic programs, as opposed to the performance of a “unit,” then should any program review involve research? That is a question that might be raised. Some of the other proposed changes are primarily language. Faculty don’t need additional work to do. How much of the changes are in response to SACS? That’s something we need to ask. We may need to put a subcommittee on this again.

EPPC Purview/Meeting with Faculty Governance. Chair Mark Bowler met with the Governance Committee about whether EPPC has purview over the ways that units are reorganized without coordination of the units and unit codes. Now these issues will go to the faculty. Chair Bowler is working on some slight changes to the Faculty Manual so that such changes need to come to EPPC.

December Meeting Date/Time. Tentatively, we will meet December 6. The December meeting was previously scheduled for 12/13, which is graduation day.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.