

**COMMITTEE:** Educational Policies and Planning Committee (EPPC)

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2012

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Scott Gordon, Chair

**REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Scott Gordon (Chair), Ed Stellwag (Vice-Chair), James Holloway, David Smith, Susan M. Bashinski

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Linner Griffin, George Kasperek, Anthony Overton, Marianna Walker (Chair of Faculty Senate)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Lori Lee, Jane Teleki (College of Human Ecology), David Batie, Leslie Pagliari, Austin Bunch, Paul Schwager, Jayne Geissler, Karen Summey, Mark Sprague (Vice-Chair of Faculty Senate)

**EXCUSED:** Blaise Williams, DeeDee Glascoff, Thomas McConnell, George Bailey

**ABSENT:** John Kenney, Mark Taggart

---

#### **ACTIONS OF MEETING**

Called to order by Chair Gordon at 1:02.

Agenda Item: Approval of minutes of January meeting

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Griffin; seconded by Stellwag

Approved unanimously.

---

Agenda Item: Request to discontinue the Pre-school add-on licensure in the Birth through Kindergarten (BK) teacher education program in the Department of Child Development and Family Relations, College of Human Ecology  
(Presented by Jane Teleki)

Discussion: Clarification of faculty reassignment, redistribution of resources. None required.

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Stellwag; seconded by Holloway

Approved unanimously.

---

Agenda Item: Request to add an "Infrastructure Concentration in Construction Management Program"  
(Presented by David Batie)

Discussion: No new resources required; new concentration will require only one new course – can be covered by existing faculty

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Stellwag; seconded by Holloway

Approved unanimously.

---

Agenda Item: Request to discontinue the “Occupational Safety and Health Minor in Department of Technology Systems”  
(Presented by Leslie Pagliari)

Discussion: Only one minor in last several years; essentially no effect on faculty.

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Stellwag; seconded by Overton  
Approved unanimously.

---

Agenda Item: Intent to Plan a Bachelor of Science in University Studies

Presentation: Bachelor of Science in University Studies degree has been in the planning stages since February 2009. The Intent is to create a program of academic integrity, which is in line with ECU strategic goals. BS in University Studies will provide a flexible, but structured program that will allow “discovery students” to graduate with a *meaningful* degree in reasonable amount of time. Programs will be student-designed, but faculty oversight will be critical. This new degree should allow a student’s degree program to be aligned with his / her career goals. (Presented by Austin Bunch, Paul Schwager, Jayne Geissler)

Key Elements Cited (by presenters):

- Forty-eight (48) hour thematic core; stated minimum number of semester credit hours of upper division courses; gateway course; capstone project (internship, research paper, experience of some sort—4 semester credit hours)
- Following the Provost’s suggestion, the BS in University Studies would be housed in the Office of Undergraduate Studies
- Will create a Work Force Advisory Council to help guide emerging fields, provide mentorships, keeping abreast with trends in the marketplace / job market
- Registrar has confirmed that the title of concentration area (mutually decided and approved by faculty oversight) will appear on student’s transcript
- Semester credit hours will go back to the unit that offers each course. Question is undecided how “credit” will be given for University Studies program graduates.

Support Cited (by presenters):

- From Fort Bragg (for Special Ops officers) – want “*educated soldiers*”.
- During 2010-2011 academic year, one-third of job postings at ECU Career Center did not specify a particular major for applicants; rather, stated “any major.”
- In current academic climate, it has become very difficult for a student to change majors beyond the freshman year. For sophomore / junior students with 2.0 – 2.5 GPAs, only approximately three existing majors at ECU support even the *possibility* of a student declaring said major and finishing in four to five years.
- Evidence from University of Oklahoma – from 29 to 110 students successfully completed their “university studies” degree program; overall growth of declared majors (to 613) in three years

Discussion:

Question regarding whether or not students, who would finish the University Studies degree would be locked into secondary level career possibilities. What would separate this degree from what is accomplished at Pitt County Community College (for example)?

How will they respond to questions / criticisms that key internship positions (for example) might be “taken” (by a University Studies generalist) away from a specialist (i.e., more proficient, higher achieving specialist)? Some businesses / employers prefer generalist to specialist.

How will they recruit majors for this program? The key will be advisors, across campus, as well as departments' oversight.

Other considerations discussed (in response to Texas Tech's University Studies program) include: add another course in mathematics to core; include requirement of some foreign language course(s?); strengthen written language / communication requirements.

Recommendations that University Studies program "staff" keep good data regarding numbers of program participants, completers, and possible effects on student retention.

Requests for additional faculty / staff: One (1) Director, one (1) SPA,  
Question raised whether or not the requested level of funding is sufficiently high.

Two levels of faculty involvement: (1) provide oversight to individual students, (2) formal participation on Faculty Council (the oversight group, which will approve a proposed program of study).

**Formal Recommendation** that the Faculty oversight group not be named "council;" should choose different name, because of possible conflict with governance units, etc.

**Formal Recommendation**: Planning group should exercise care to avoid use of the words, "concentration," "program," "program of study" and instead utilize the term, "thematic core".

**Formal Recommendation** that planning group reference existing, somewhat analogous programs at comparable institutions to see what levels of staffing and funding are in place to maintain their programs.

Action Taken: Motion to approve by Kasperek; seconded by Overton

Approved 8 – 1, with Smith dissenting.

Assigned additional duties to: Request that presenters be in attendance at upcoming Faculty Senate meeting, to be available to support Scott Gordon in answering questions. All three presenters agreed.

---

Agenda Item: Approval of Unit Academic Program Review by the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Discussion: Not many time-bound actions; should a request be made for these? Decided these were likely neither easily estimated, nor necessary. Issues discussed re: effects of College of Dental Medicine, potential for growth of the Department of Anatomy. No major objections *or* suggestions for improvement noted.

Action Taken: Motion made, by Dr. Smith, to send a memo to the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development that:

"The East Carolina University Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Planning Committee has reviewed the documents associated with the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology Unit Academic Program Review and finds the documents to be in good order." (for transmittal to the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development)

Motion to approve by Smith; seconded by Overton

Approved, 7 – 0    Abstained: Griffin, Stellwag

---

Agenda Item: Proposed New UNC-GA Program Approval Timeline (for Planning and Establishment of New Degree Programs) (Introduced by Gordon, presented by Griffin)

Discussion: Shared as FYI information for this committee. Change involves requirement that a university will now be required to submit “intent to establish” forms to GA within 4 months of GA’s approval of the “intent to plan.” Particular concern was expressed regarding the proposed four-month timeline, should a proposal be submitted in the spring of the year (i.e., because timeline would expire during summer, when most faculty are off-campus). ECU has already submitted a proposal to UNC-GA that the four-month period be changed (to either a 4-month *minimum* period of time OR a six-month period). Date at which changes would be initiated is uncertain, at this point. Dr. Griffin shared particular areas of concern, expressed kudos to the planning force (including Drs. Walker, Gordon, and Sprague), and explained possible proposal that ECU consider two primary time periods (spring and fall semesters) for proposing / submitting such documents. GA meeting on this date (02.10.2012); depending on outcome of the GA meeting, the planning force will reconvene, prepare appropriate documents (if necessary), and return to EPPC (if necessary).

Action Taken: NO Motion

---

Announcements: (Marianna Walker) Additional Faculty Senate meeting, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Two items on agenda: (1) PPC White Paper, and (2) university budget.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 13, 2012 (regularly scheduled); *possibility* of special called meeting in March (dependent upon outcome of GA meeting—see item immediately above)

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan M. Bashinski