COMMITTEE: Educational Planning and Policies Committee (EPPC)

MEETING DATE: April 13, 2012

PERSON PRESIDING: Scott Gordon, Chair

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Linner Griffin, George Kasperek, George Bailey, Thomas McConnell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lori Lee, Karen Summey, Anthony Thomson (MSITE), Richard Ericson and Jamie Kruse (Economics), Heather Ries (Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences)

EXCUSED: Mark Taggart, David Smith (arrived, 2:15)

ABSENT: Blaise Williams, John Kenney

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**ACTIONS OF MEETING**

Called to order by Chair Gordon at 1:03 PM

**Agenda Item:** Approval of minutes of March special meeting

**Discussion:** NONE

**Action Taken:** Motion to approve by Glascoff; seconded by O'Connell

Approved unanimously.

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

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**Old Business - NONE**

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**New Business:**

**Agenda Item:** Revisions to the concentrations in the MAEd in Mathematics, Department of Mathematics, Science, and Instructional Technology Education, College of Education

**Discussion:** Explanation provided that this request is in regard to refinement of *existing* concentrations and not the creation of *new* concentrations

**Action Taken:** No action required; this is a curriculum matter

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A
**Agenda Item:** Request for Authorization to Establish a PhD Program in Economics, Dept. of Economics, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

**Discussion:** Initial comments from Chairman Gordon, regarding the atypical order entertainment of this motion—i.e., EPPC hearing this request prior to it being reviewed by the Graduate Council.

If EPPC were to entertain this request, any approval given would be **conditional**, only; if Graduate Council were to make any changes, then the request for authorization would need to come back through EPPC and be revisited. Concern was expressed regarding the possibility of setting a precedent—do we want to do this? Question was raised if it were possible the newly approved timeline might avert the occasion of this happening again? (Unknown, though the committee believes the new process might be facilitative of more timely review of such requests—which would permit review to proceed through university channels in prescribed sequence.) With this comment, committee member's concern was withdrawn. **Review of proposal by EPPC to proceed today.**

Proposal was presented by Dr. Richard Ericson, with comments from Jamie Kruse and Heather Ries. The proposal for a PhD in Economics was initiated in February, 2007. Current status of budget concerns and research constraints at ECU have, more than once, interfered with progress of the motion through review and approval channels (offered as an explanation, though not an excuse, for the department's request for last minute action).

A cohort of six doctoral students will be supported with departmental funds (anticipated to be: two from NC, two from US, two international students); one cohort will be admitted every other year, when the program launches. The department should graduate nine doctoral students in each three-year period, after the program is up and running.

Proposed structure conserves on resources—conditionally, on successful procurement of grants. Synergies with other ECU departments were explained, particularly in regard to coastal hazards and public health issues. The program will draw upon faculty from other NC universities for doctoral committee service and adjunct teaching. Adequate support for this new program was committed, from the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, to provide whatever resources will be needed to see the program succeed—even given the level of current resources. Should additional resources become available to the college, additional resources will be provided to support the proposed new PhD. The fact the Department of Economics was recognized for its productivity and centrality in the recent PPC reports bodes well for the proposed program.

Some support for PhD students will come from a transfer of out-of-state tuition remissions that currently support Master's degree students. In-state tuition for doctoral students will also be covered. The question was raised regarding coverage of student fees—will this be a concern? Stipend, health coverage, and fees were all addressed in GAs required budget forms.

**Action Taken:** Motion to approve the request for authorization to establish a PhD program in Economics, contingent upon final approval by the Graduate Council made by Glascoff; seconded by O'Connell.

Approved unanimously.

**Assigned additional duties to:**

1. Recommendation that Dr. Ericson to ensure a representative of Department of Economics will be present at the Faculty Senate meeting April 17th.
Agenda Item: Unit academic program review: Department of Geography  
(Documents reviewed by Kasperek, Stellwag, Glascoff, and McConnell)

Discussion: Report very adequately addressed the reviewers’ comments and EPPC criteria. Response is well-focused; provides an excellent example of what a program review response “should look like.” The only potential for improvement raised during discussion was the fact the response did not address possible collaborations with other ECU departments, but committee members decided that including a comment to this effect is beyond the purview of the EPPC committee’s charge.

Action Taken: Motion, made by Glascoff, to state:
“The East Carolina University Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Planning Committee has reviewed the documents associated with the Department of Geography Academic Program Review and finds the documents to be in good order.”  
(for transmittal to the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development)

Seconded by O’Connell.

Approved unanimously, with one abstention (Griffin).

Assigned additional duties to:  N / A

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Agenda Item: Unit academic program review: Department of Construction Management  
(Documents reviewed by Holloway, Kenney, and Williams)

Discussion: Department’s response, overall, lacks timelines (i.e., one required element of EPPC’s program review criteria). In several instances, statements in the documents are very general in nature and lack requested detail. EPPC criteria were not met.

Action Taken: Motion made by Glascoff to:
“Send a response to the Department of Construction Management asking they rework the response to reviewers in the requested SMART (i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) format.”  
(for transmittal to the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development)

Seconded by Holloway.

Approved unanimously, with one abstention (Griffin).

Assigned additional duties to:  N / A

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Agenda Item: Unit academic program review: Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies  
(Documents reviewed by Gordon, Smith, Overton, and Bashinski)
Discussion: Response to reviewers was very well-organized; all points raised, both “to think about” and “specific recommendations,” were addressed. Some responses seemed vague; several lacked projection and future action planning steps and timelines; however, it was decided that no further action by the department was necessary.

Action Taken: Motion, made by Bashinski and amended by Kasparek, to state:

“The East Carolina University Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Planning Committee has reviewed the documents associated with the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies Academic Program Review and finds the documents to be in adequate order.”
(for transmittal to the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development)

Seconded by Glascoff.

Approved unanimously, with one abstention (Griffin).

Assigned additional duties to: N / A

Announcement: Thanks to Dr. Scott Gordon for his two years’ service as Chair of the EPPC. Standing ovation!

Discussion: Dr. Gordon thanked Dr. Ed Stellwag for his service as Vice-Chair for two years, Lori Lee for all her assistance, and Dr. Bashinski for serving as Secretary this past year.

NEXT MEETING: 2012 - 2013

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Officers for next year’s EPPC – possibilities: Dr. Stellwag and Dr. Smith have both expressed potential interest in serving as EPPC officers.