

**Educational Policies and Planning Committee  
East Carolina University Faculty Senate  
April 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**PERSON PRESIDING:** John Collins (online)

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Regular members:** Heidi Bonner, John Collins, Bryna Coonin, Michael Dingfelder, Timothy Jenks, Suzanne Lea, Jean-Luc Scemama, Michelle Wallen

**Ex-officio Members (with vote):** Mark Bowler, Ruth Little, Ron Preston, Jonathan Reid, Jason Yao

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**Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm**

**AGENDA ITEM #1** Approval of March 18, 2022, EPPC meeting minutes

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #2** Request to approve a new graduate certificate in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies

Unit: Department of Chemistry

Representative: Eli Hvastkovs

**DISCUSSION:** Hvastkovs explained that this would allow students to be more readily employable. It is filling a need already established by the marketplace, and serves as a professional development option for students seeking this. Minimum of nine credits is all that is needed. Graduate Council approved this proposal at its March 21 meeting.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #3** Request to approve APR unit response for Sociology

Unit: Department of Sociology

Representative: Kristen Myers

**DISCUSSION:** Myers provided a brief overview using a Powerpoint presentation. Much of what the external reviewers recommended were started right away. The review was a positive experience. Myers addressed several of the recommendations and indicated what has already been done and what is underway. Taking the program online is a high priority but will take some time.

Lea had some comments and suggestions, which were accepted. More metrics suggested – much of the rubric said ‘ongoing.’ It was offered that adding metrics is very helpful as a department moves forward to the next program review.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #4** Request to approve proposal for Reorganizing the Health Science Academic Units

Representatives: Ron Mitchelson, Grant Hayes, Sylvia Brown, Michael Van Scott

**DISCUSSION:** Sylvia Brown began, providing some background. A proposal was prepared and two faculty forums held to get feedback. Now submitting to EPPC. (Minor changes to codes involved. These provisional codes could be in effect for a minimum of 18 months. ) Questions followed from EPPC regarding fiscal sustainability. Van Scott addressed these concerns. Ron Mitchelson indicated that the reorganization could help with communications.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #5** Request to approve proposed Reorganization of Department of Public Health

Unit: Department of Public Health

Representatives: Paul Vos & Suzanne Lazorick

**DISCUSSION:** This was discussed at the March 18 EPPC meeting. Meetings and work took place between that EPPC meeting and today's meeting. Was a member of EPPC part of the interim meetings? Yes, Bowler and Collins met with Puri Martinez and Linda Ingalls. Thanks were extended to all who worked on this, for their dedication and patience.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #6** Request to move graduate certificate in Biostatistics to a new academic home

Unit: Department of Public Health

Representatives: Paul Vos & Suzanne Lazorick

**DISCUSSION:** EPPC unable to see this ahead on Curriculog but relevant justification was provided in this meeting.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #7** Request to approve new Accelerated Program Criminal Justice BS/MS

Unit: Department of Criminal Justice

Representative: Heidi Bonner

**DISCUSSION:** It was determined by the Department that nine hours of field experience is dispensable. The last APR suggested additional options for internships, which Bonner said will happen at a later date.

**ACTION: Approved**

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## **AGENDA ITEM #8**

Presentation on Prior Learning Assessment  
Representatives: Karen Rupp and Amy Shannon

**DISCUSSION:** Rupp refreshed the EPPC on the background of the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). The PLA Committee was formed by Dr. Mitchelson in 2020. It was understood that an enrollment cliff was approaching and that there were many adults in NC with some college credits, but no degree. The NC Community College system has a PLA policy in place so we may see transfers in from this. The policy is not mandating, but is encouraging, credit for prior learning. The PLA Committee recommended policies and procedures to assist with this, through a portfolio-based assessment. This aligns with ECU's mission and processes. SACS was accounted for. The PLA Committee consulted with Dr. Nan Travers of the SUNY System, and also researched peer-institutions. Portfolio is used at many institutions. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Graduate Curriculum Committee and GCC have already been consulted.

Questions and further discussion followed. Most of EPPC was new to this and some reservations were expressed. We are not voting on this, however. We are being asked to hear and consider. Numerous questions followed around issues such as evaluation of students, how learning objectives are developed. How is students' expertise verified? How much traffic can we anticipate? If university offers this option it is thought that students are more likely to come to ECU to complete the degree. How will the appeals process work? outside of the content area? Where is the UNC System on this? Are there other SACS institutions who do this? This will be emailed to the committee. Can we be sure the person actually has the experience and expertise he/she reports? Faculty time and logistics are potentially issues to be considered. Programs have the right to refuse to be part of this — both undergrad and grad — if accreditation is involved that will not permit it. Cherry Point was discussed. Military there are encouraged to get their degree(s) at ECU, so the yield could be substantial.

The questions asked were summarized by Rupp, who will send us responses to these as more data is collected.

**ACTION:** Just asking for concerns or recommendations, not a vote. Collins will meet with Puri Martinez so more information may be forthcoming.

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**AGENDA ITEM #8** Request to approve new graduate certificate in School Counseling  
Unit: School of Interdisciplinary Professions, College of Education  
Representatives: Ami Camp, Janee Avent Harris, & Allison Crowe

**DISCUSSION:** This is a post-masters in school counseling. The Department is getting a lot of requests/queries for something like this. The new certificate will utilize current courses within the institution's catalog. This certificate has been determined not be a substantive change and will not require SACSCOC interaction.

**ACTION:** Approved

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**AGENDA ITEM #9** Request to approve revisions to the MAEd in Elementary Education  
Unit: Department of Elementary and Middle Grades Education

Representatives: Carol Greene and Patricia Anderson

**DISCUSSION:** Justification presented. It was time to update the Department's offerings. Department wanted to reduce credits from to 36 to 33, in line with other institutions. Wanted to create four new courses including a research course. Students need teaching on leadership, not so much on administrative.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #10** Request to approve revisions to the MAEd in Middle Grades Education  
Unit: Department of Elementary and Middle Grades Education  
Representatives: Carol Greene and Patricia Anderson

**DISCUSSION:** Justification presented. Revised the research series. 36 credits were reduced to 30, in line with other institutions.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #11** Request to approve new undergraduate certificate in Multicultural Literature  
Unit: Department of English  
Representative: Donna Kain & Kirstin Squint

**DISCUSSION:** Squint provided overview. Does not require new hires or new courses. We suspected this would be popular. From 2011-2021 four students had completed the courses So could have had the certificate, others completed a fair number, to varying degrees. Would this this double count for an English major? Why a certificate route instead of a concentration or a minor? Students from other areas might like to take it. Some examples given. English does not have formal concentrations at the undergrad level. Mostly they want this to appeal to those outside of English. Bowler noted that this is more like repositioning students within the institution. Could completing this help students be better prepared for the new workplace? Not directly or immediately, but possible going forward. Kain monitors job ads with this in mind.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #12** Request to approve a new graduate dual degree Hispanic Studies MA & Marriage and Family Therapy MS  
Unit: Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
Representative: Dale Knickerbocker

**DISCUSSION:** This grew out of a partnership between Hispanic Studies and Marriage & Family that started in a workshop. Some internships developed that placed Hispanic language students in Marriage & Family. It topped out as far as what the students and Marriage/Family could get out of it, because the students did not have training in therapy. So the partnership developed to bridge this gap, by allowing students to have the dual masters. Half of the Hispanic Studies students have degrees in psychology so this is a "natural". Marriage & Family has a 100% placement rate. The intercultural growth and linguistic growth are noted. Considered to be a

win-win. Requires no new resources -- new faculty or computing lab equipment. Large migrant community in eastern NC. An inventive way to help address health disparities.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #12** Request to approve new undergraduate minor in Medical Humanities  
Unit: Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Representative: Derek Maher

**DISCUSSION:** We have thousands of students pursuing degrees in medical related fields. Three different departments independently came up with these plans. The Dean realized this and asked them all to consider looking at this. This is not so much “medical” humanities as it is “healthcare” humanities. The three English Courses are professional, scientific, non-fiction writing. These speak to competencies. Any new resources needed for this? Although the current biomedical ethics faculty member is leaving but ECU this expertise can be further developed within existing faculty . Why is the folklore course in here? There is a lot of folklore that is medically inflected, concerns healing. The Dean was strongly in favor of this.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #13** Request to approve revisions to undergraduate program in Information and Computer Technology BS  
Unit: Technology Systems  
Representative: Paige Varnell & Phil Lunsford

**DISCUSSION:** Varnell provides overview. Dept. began talking about this more than a year ago, and have been thru ATMAE accreditation since. Important to keep our center of excellence for ATMAE and NSACAE, and to meet industry needs. Department has made changes to the info technology concentration also. The Department’s industry advisor said that cloud tech and cloud architecture courses. Should be added. Have removed some of the managerial courses because ATMAE required these at one time, but no longer do so.

**ACTION: Approved**

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**AGENDA ITEM #14** Request to approve discontinuation of a graduate certificate in Nurse Anesthesia  
Unit: College of Nursing  
Representative: Robin Corbett

**DISCUSSION:** Justification -- long overdue.

**ACTION: Approved.**

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**AGENDA ITEM #15** New item added, concerning EPPC Charge  
Brought by EPPC member Preston.

EPPC voted to make changes to its charge at its 14 January 2022 meeting. One of the changes was to amend the language regarding membership as shown below.

Membership:

8 elected tenured faculty members.

Ex-officio members (with vote): The Chancellor or an appointed representative, the Provost or an appointed representative, the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences or an appointed representative, the ~~Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement~~ **Dean of the Graduate School** or an appointed representative, the Chair of the Faculty, one faculty senator selected by the Chair of the Faculty, and one student member from the Student Government Association.

The first reading of the recommendations from the Committee on Committees at the 29 March Faculty Senate Meeting contained this structural rationale for changing for the EPPC charge (among other committees):

Committees with charges that have both the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and the Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement (or their designees) as ex-officio will be revised to read “3 Provost appointed representatives, 1 with academic or administrative expertise in Health Sciences disciplines, 1 with academic or administrative expertise in Research, Engagement, and Economic Development.” The affected committees are Academic Awards, Educational Policies and Planning, Faculty Governance, Research and Creative Activities, Service-Learning, Unit Code Screening, and University Budget.

Specifically, the proposed change for EPPC is as follows:

Membership:

8 elected tenured faculty members.

Ex-officio members (with vote): The Chancellor or an appointed representative; **the 3 Provost or an appointed representatives, 1 with academic or administrative expertise in the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences disciplines, 1 with academic or administrative expertise in Research, Engagement, and Economic Development;** ~~or an appointed representative, the Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement or an appointed representative,~~ the Chair of the Faculty; one faculty senator selected by the Chair of the Faculty; and one student member from the Student Government Association.

Preston recommends that the EPPC requests the following: that the Committee on Committees include a membership position for “the Dean of the Graduate School or an appointed representative” in the EPPC committee charge.

**DISCUSSION:** Considerable discussion followed. It was considered that not enough clarity could be reached to have a motion/vote at the April 8 meeting, which was already very lengthy. There is some urgency however, as the outcome needs to reach the Committee on Committees in time for the Faculty Senate meeting on the last Tuesday of April.

**ACTION:** Tabled

\*\*\*\* **SUBSEQUENT TO THE EPPC MEETING OF April 8**, work continued by email to move from “Tabled” to a resolution in time for the necessary actions by Faculty Senate. A majority of voting members agreed to the following wording, which was forwarded to the Committee on Committees:

8 elected tenured faculty members and 7 ex-officio members.

Ex-officio members (with vote): The Chancellor or an appointed representative; the Provost or an appointed representative; the Associate Provost for Institutional Planning, Assessment and Research or an appointed representative; the Dean of the Graduate School or an appointed representative; the Chair of the Faculty or an appointed representative; one faculty senator selected by the Chair of the Faculty; and one student member from the Student Government Association. The Chair of the Faculty should, to the extent possible, ensure faculty representation from both the east and west campuses.

8 elected tenured faculty members **and 7 ex-officio members.**

Ex-officio members (with vote): The Chancellor or an appointed representative; the Provost or an appointed representative; the **Associate Provost for Institutional Planning, Assessment and Research** Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences or an appointed representative; the **Dean of the Graduate School** Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement or an appointed representative; the Chair of the Faculty **or an appointed representative**; one faculty senator selected by the Chair of the Faculty; and one student member from the Student Government Association. **The Chair of the Faculty should, to the extent possible, ensure faculty representation from both the east and west campuses.”**

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## Announcements/Updates

### a. Update on APRs

- History (Scemama) –
- Sociology (Lea) –
- Africans and African studies (Wallen) –
- Political Science (Collins) – have selected reviewers, site visit in April
- Economics (Michael Dingfelder) –

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**Meeting Adjourned at 3:50 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: This is the final meeting of the academic year**

Respectfully submitted,

Bryna Coonin  
Secretary  
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