

Educational Policies Committee, 2011-12

End-of-Year Report

Wartburg College
June 21, 2012

To: Dr. Fred Ribich, Acting Dean
From: Charles Figura, Chair of EPC
Subject: EPC End-of-Year 2011-12 Report

As usual, the bulk of EPC's time was spent working on reviewing proposals for curricular changes, primarily in the late fall and early winter months. EPC also approved a number of individualised majors, and reviewed the Academic Calendar for the following year.

In an effort to help the College work with the Strategic Plan, EPC is trying to coordinate with Faculty Council to better communicate the impact that proposed additions and changes to College course and program offerings may have on the College's resources.

- EPC will send a letter at the end of each year to communicate the net number of slot changes to Faculty Council. This letter should include a breakdown of which courses/programs/departments have added or removed slots. This letter should also be available to the faculty. Note that while "resources" is generally most closely identified with "slots", it also includes any action which may affect slots down the line (such as cutting maximum class enrollment in heavily populated classes, even for justified reasons such as insufficient lab space or other classroom resources).

It has generally been understood by members of EPC that in the past, courses that were flagged by EPC for having "resource implications" were then taken up and discussed by Faculty Council. Subsequent discussions have indicated that such discussions nearly never took place, and that the concerns for responsible resource management fell through the cracks. This proposal will allow Faculty Council, as the chief faculty body overseeing academic resource issues, to think strategically about those resources, and give them the information in one easily-digestible package rather than in a piecemeal fashion.

- Efforts may need to be taken to more closely oversee those resources. This *could* involve an earlier deadline (Such as October 1) for any new course or change in course that would use *additional* resources. This would allow Faculty Council and EPC to work together to determine what can be justified in the short term. While EPC agreed that a notification-only approach (as outlined in the previous bullet) was sufficient at this point, it was recognised that such further steps may be deemed prudent.

In that light, a letter was submitted to Faculty Council on April 10, 2012 indicating the new resources requested by program and course proposals. This totalled four-plus credits per year (“plus” do to difficulty in counting due to reduced enrollments, internship classes, and other ambiguous load issues). A copy of this letter is included as an addendum to this end-of-year report.

Other EPC actions of particular note include:

- EPC reviewed and approved a proposal for the new *Peace and Justice* major. This major will be under the authority of the Ethics Chair (rather than a program/department), and will be composed primarily of existing courses. Several new courses (totaling 3 credits per year) were approved.
- EPC reviewed and approved a proposal to create an *Environmental Studies Minor*.
- EPC approved the creation of a new *Film Studies Minor*.
- EPC reviewed the requirements for Individualised Major and the associated form, and approved changes to this form. These changes will make it easier for EPC to review these proposals, and place a greater onus on the proposing student to prepare and explain their proposal. This will also limit the use of the Individualised Major to those students who are seeking to use it as an “escape hatch” to salvage poor academic performance in their chosen major.
- EPC approved a two-year extension of the Wartburg West Second Year Program pilot. Small numbers have made it difficult to discern whether the program is having a positive outcome on participants, and plans are in the works to try to evaluate the program in time for the next review.
- EPC approved a substantial set of revisions to the French Major and Minor (including an increase of $+\frac{1}{2}$ credits per year).
- EPC approved a substantial set of revisions to the Sociology program (including an increase of $+\frac{1}{2}$ credits per year).

The following items were either submitted at the very end of the year or for other reasons were left unresolved by the 2011-12 Educational Policy Committee:

- EPC discussed the possibility of a “General Studies” catch-all for students who want to propose an individualised major but have missed the deadline. Such a proposal would require some statement indicating expectation of appropriate rigor. There was never a formal proposal and this was not acted on, but should be considered in the future.

- EPC discussed changes to the Probation and Suspension policy. A revision proposed by Dean Ribich included raising the GPA standards each year in order to catch more students who were in danger of falling behind. EPC did *not* act on this proposal, but recommended that the Registrar investigate to see what possible repercussions might result.
- EPC discussed proposals for an Environmental Studies major. There were a number of concerns that were relayed to the proposing faculty, and it was determined that given the timing (end-of-the-school-year), the proposal would be put on hold until the Fall.

Respectfully submitted on June 21, 2012.

Charles Figura, Chair of EPC, 2011-12.

Wartburg College
EPC

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To: Faculty Council **Date:** April 10, 2012
From: Charlie Figura **Subject:** Notification of Increased
Copies: Dean of Faculty Resource Use for SY2011-2012

In an attempt to improve the communication between the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) and Faculty Council, and to encourage both committees to think strategically about College programs and program growth, EPC submits this summary of proposals that the Committee has passed that have direct resource implications during the 2011-2012 Academic Year:

Misc:

ED 596	+1/4 credit / year	for cooperating supervising teachers.
GM 195	+1/4 credit / year	balanced by dropping an IS101 section?
CA 349	reduced enrollment cap 20 → 16	due to 'broken' computers in computer labs
LS 395	+1/2 credit / year	"pilot will be taught as overload".
MU 131	+1/2 slot	
SP 395	reduced enrollment cap 25 → 20	
MA 111	+1 credit / year	

Peace and Justice Major:

PJ 101	+1 credit	"part of McBride's 'normal teaching load'"
PJ 371	+1 credit	internship, "supervised by appropriate mentor"
PJ 460	+1/2 credit / year	
PJ 461	+1/2 credit / year	

French program restructure: additions were mostly offset by removal of other courses, but gained 1/2 credit total.

Sociology Program Restructure:

SO 315	+1 credit / 2 year
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Totalling this change is problematic due to difficulty in determining an equivalence between cap reductions, internship supervision, and actual slots. Direct slot growth: 4+ slots

The following new course proposals were judged to be resource neutral (balanced by removal of courses or adjustment of rotation): SW 102, PHY195, SO 350.

EPC would like to suggest that one possible course of action to improve consideration of College resources is to set an early deadline for any proposals that require an increase in resources. Such a deadline (October 15,

perhaps?) would allow EPC and Faculty Council to better evaluate proposals with resource implications, and may additionally help encourage programs to consider ways that existing offerings may be reduced to offset new proposals.

Charles Figura
Chair, Educational Policies Committee