

# College of Geosciences

## Environmental Programs Executive Committee

[Approved] Minutes of Meeting, February 9, 2007

In attendance: Drs. Sarah Bednarz (SB), Don Collins (DC), Jennifer McGuire (JM), Andrew Millington – Chair (AM), Bob Stewart (RS).

- EPEC 07.1 Environmental Programs Committee (EPEC) discussed Dr. Kennicutt's proposal for a GEOS485/685 listing for courses on Directed Studies International Polar Year 07-08. EPEC thought that the idea was sound in principle and agreed that its interdisciplinary nature would warrant a GEOS code. However, the following points merit further consideration by the team developing the courses: (i) who will be the instructor of record?, (ii) there appears to be a lack of cohesion in the course because of the many outside speakers, and (iii) it seems a lot of effort is being expended on a course that is planned to be taught once, could it be taught in AY 2009/09 as well? SB noted that some of the policy aspects might be of interest to ENST majors, as well as ENGS majors.
- Action: Relay comments to Dr. Kennicutt (AM).**
- EPEC 07.2 EPEC discussed listservers for ENST/ENGS students. SB noted that an ENST listserver exists. A listserver does not exist for ENGS.
- Action: Send list of ENGS/ENST student e-mails to AM (RS). Dean's Office to establish an ENGS listserver (AM),**
- EPEC 07.3(i) AM outlined list of items to be tackled by EPEC this semester:
- (i) EPEC constitution. Discussion postponed until a later meeting.
- (ii) EPEC initiated discussion on the criteria required to be a member of the College of Geosciences' environmental faculty. Possible criteria identified were – teach a course on either of the ENST/ENGS plans, willingness to advise, willingness to offer 491s to ENST/ENGS students, and serving on the EPEC committee etc. Agreed faculty need to actively express an interest, rather than the EPEC 'sign then on'.
- Actions: Write a paper for circulation and discussion at next EPEC meeting. (AM). EPEC members to find any relevant sets of by-laws for other affiliated faculty groupings at TAMU (All)**
- (iii) Environmental Programs web pages. AM reported he had met with Jay Slovacek who was redesigning these pages, and that Slovacek would report back to next EPEC meeting. RS/DC expressed need to move forward with these on a faster timeline because of recruitment.
- Action: JS to accelerate the timeline for web page changes (AM)**
- (iv) Clarify advising pathway: Lack of time precluded discussion of this item at this meeting.
- (v) Liaison with students. Lack of time precluded discussion of this item at this meeting, though RS asked if any progress had been made regarding a ENST/ENGS room. JM mentioned a room
- Action: Raise issue with Dean (AM)**

EPEC 07.4	<p>may be available in G&amp;G (Halbouty).</p> <p>Revisions to ENST and ENGS degree plans/curricula. Both the ENST and ENGS degrees plans were discussed, mainly in light of requirement to reduce total hours to 120. The main points discussed are listed below (<i>n.b. where the item relates directly to the objective of reducing the hours to 120, it is marked '120', all other items are part of a longer term objective of amending the degree plans</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) ENST: deletion of one environmental policy and one geoscience elective '120'.</li> <li>(ii) STAT303 with an environmental statistics course offered by CG (possibly by OCNG).</li> <li>(iii) ENST: Leave ATMO, OCNG, GEOL and GEOS courses unchanged '120'</li> <li>(iv) ENST: GEOG to discuss any changes they wish to make to GEOG courses</li> <li>(v) ENST: Leave core curriculum courses unchanged.</li> <li>(vi) ENST: Leave choice of five free electives.</li> <li>(vii) ENGS: deletion of one environmental policy, environmental theme and technical elective '120'.</li> <li>(viii) ENGS: Reintroduce 1-credit seminar based around business/employer-led seminars '120'</li> <li>(ix) ENGS: Discussed replacing STAT303 with an environmental statistics course offered by CG (possibly by OCNG).</li> <li>(x) ENGS: Leave ATMO, OCNG, GEOG, GEOL and GEOS courses unchanged '120'.</li> <li>(xi) ENGS: Leave core curriculum courses unchanged.</li> <li>(xii) Other points: EPEC noted a number of issues with ENGS themes as constituted at present. JM suggested we provide more 'direction' in these degrees.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: Produce amendments to degree plans to achieve the reduction to 120 hour as the first stage in curriculum change (AM). Circulate to EPEC members for comment and discussion at next EPEC meeting (All) .</b></p>
EPEC 07.5	<p>Inevitably, as we discussed these plans we discussed more substantial changes that reducing the hours to 120. AM proposes we tackle the 120 reduction first, and the more significant changes (e.g. see (xii) above) after the 120-hour degree plans have been passed onto the College Undergraduate Committee.</p> <p>AM circulated notes from the meeting of CEDD that he had attended the previous week. There was not enough time to discuss these notes fully, but he raised the potential around 'business and environment'. EPEC members were enthusiastic.</p>	<p><b>Action: Contact the Mays School about possible links (AM).</b></p>
EPEC 07.6	<p>Action:</p> <p>Agreed EPEC should meet once a month until May 2007, and then consider frequency of meetings after that.</p>	