

College of Geosciences

Environmental Programs Executive Committee

Minutes of Meeting, Feb 28th, 2008

In attendance: Drs. Don. Collins, Ethan Grossman (EG) (sub for Jennifer MacGuire), Chris Houser (CH) (sub for Sarah Bednarz), Andrew Millington – Chair (AM), Bob Stewart (RS).

Apologies: Dr. Sarah Bednarz, Jennifer MacGuire

EPEC 2008.6 Minutes of Oct 24th, Nov 28th and Jan 31st meetings were approved.

EPEC 2008.7 AM reported that Jennifer MacGuire had resigned from EPEC in preparation for her move to a new position at the University of St Thomas. We noted with pleasure she will be director of their environmental program, thank her very much for her work on the environmental programs at TAMU, and wish her success in her future career. EG offered to serve as the G&G representative on EPEC until the end of this semester.

Action: AM to contact Dr. Kronenberg (Head G&G)

Matters arising and progress reports

EPEC 2007.3(v) EPEC noted that space had not yet been allocated to the program despite the assurance made on 22nd Jan by the Dean. EG presented an argument for space for the programs, and a number of alternatives (PowerPoint presentation). EPEC unanimously agreed that we would request space in two stages: first, rooms 104-106 and 109, and second, room 204 (as the ultimate home for the director).

Action: AM to make written request to the Dean for this space.

EPEC 2007.21 AM introduced a financial plan for the programs (PowerPoint), a number of modifications were requested by the committee: 12 month appointment for director and capital costs to refurbish and equip rooms for the program. AM noted he had had feedback on the draft advertisement he had circulated for the Admin Assistant/Academic Advisor. EPEC confirmed the item in the wrap-up discussion with Bruce Coull that, at the present time, the College would be best served by extending the appointment of the interim director and not recruiting a new director.

Action: AM to revise budget, circulate to EPEC for approval and then submit financial plan to Dean.

EPEC 2008.2 Discussion of other environmental programs at TAMU was tabled.

Item tabled.

EPEC 2008.4 EPEC re-considered the need to meet with Heads of Departments and agreed a meeting of Heads of Departments, the Program Director, the Dean and Associate Deans to discuss some items in Coull's report would be more appropriate. Also agreed this should take place before the April College Executive Committee meeting when we would wish the Coull report to be discussed (see Minute EPEC 2008.10)

Action: AM to request the Dean to convene this meeting.

New items

EPEC 2008.8	AM introduced changes to EP web site: (i) other Geosciences department's programs introduced from the EP front page; (ii) list of faculty teaching courses; (iii) easier navigation to program advisors; and (iv) Bruce Coull's report had been published on the web site. CH noted it was difficult to find information about the ENSG themes. DC offered to work with Jennifer Rumford to develop interactive web pages to help students select their theme. AM noted 131 catalog needed to be uploaded.	Actions: AM/DC to work with Jennifer Rumford on these changes.
EPEC 2008.9	Reports from the following ENGS working groups were discussed: climate change, water, coastal processes, technical electives and GEOS105. AM noted that GEOS405 had tried to meet (unsuccessfully) and that Dr. Klein would be organizing a meeting in the near future. Progress on the human impacts group had been delayed as new members had been recruited to the group. Committee noted that progress on GEOS105 needed to fit in with university deadlines if it were to move from a 3 to 4 credit course, and that both programs would require revision and college and university approval. Committee requested a template be created so that the working groups could enter their proposed theme curricula into it. CH mentioned internships in connection with the coastal theme and AM noted he was assembling internship information for the web site as student's were requesting information on this because of its perceived importance in career development.	Action: AM to provide feedback from EPEC to working group conveners and develop a template.
EPEC 2008.10	EPEC noted we had discussed many of the items raised in Coull's report and, because of time, we would table formal consideration of the report until the next meeting. EPEC also noted it would prefer the Coull report to be discussed at the College Executive Committee meeting in April (see matter arising, EPEC 2008.4)	Item tabled
EPEC 2008.11	EPEC agreed we would schedule the following meetings: (i) EP faculty and ENST/ENST students – March 4 th 4-5.30pm, (ii) EPEC and Dean, week after Spring Break, (iii) Open meeting of faculty before end of March.	Action: AM to arrange meetings
EPEC 2008.12	AM notified EPEC of the need to develop materials for ENST and ENGS by the end of May for the institutional reaffirmation procedures required by SACS. He noted that the Geography Dept had progressed quite far with these materials, and he suggested using some of their ideas to develop materials for ENGS and ENST programs which would be circulated for commentary by the wider faculty interested in the programs. EPEC agreed this course of action.	Action: AM to prepare materials and circulate
EPEC 2008.13	AM circulated a questionnaire he was getting ENST and ENGS students to complete mainly to gather information for a recruitment drive after Spring Break, and to find information	

about themes which students are taking. He noted that already about 30 students had completed the questionnaire and that one of his graduate students was going to analyze the results.

EPEC
2008.14 Dates for next two EPEC meetings are Mar 27 and April 24,
9.00-11.00 in 202i unless notified otherwise.