

College of Geosciences

Environmental Programs Executive Committee

[Unapproved] Minutes of Meeting, Mar 27th, 2008

In attendance: Drs. Don. Collins, Ethan Grossman (EG), Sarah Bednarz (SB), Andrew Millington – Chair (AM), Bob Stewart (RS), Steve di Marco - for item 2008.18 (SM), Kim Waddell – for item 2008.21 (KW).

EPEC Minutes of Feb 28th 2008 meeting were approved.
2008.15

Matters arising and progress reports

EPEC 2007.3(v), 2007.21, 2008.5 EPEC prepared a business plan for the Environmental Programs since the last meeting. It includes requests for space, personnel and a budget for the programs as well as other requests and predicted growth in majors and SCHs. This was to have been presented to the Dean on March 20th but the meeting was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The meeting has been re-scheduled for April 14th. EPEC discussed modifications to the business plan and likely implications of the unforeseen delay, including the need to reschedule meeting with Heads of Department and a discussion of Program's business a future College Executive Committee.

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

AM submitted a written request for space (see Minute 2007.3(v)) to the Dean who agreed that 1st floor space should be released to the Programs. He also submitted a revised version of the Bylaws to the Dean.

EPEC 2008.2 No progress since last meeting.

EPEC 2008.7 AM reported he had contacted Dr. Kronenberg about a replacement for Dr. MacGuire (GG representative) on EPEC. It was agreed EG would take on this role for the remainder of this academic year.

EPEC 2008.8 Progress on web site has continued since last EPEC meeting.

EPEC 2008.12 No progress since last meeting.

EPEC 2008.13 Discussion of student survey tabled until next meeting.

New items

EPEC 2008.16 (incl. EPEC discussed notes (kindly recorded by Dr Chris Houser) from the Student-Faculty meeting held on March 4th. Noted the points made regarding the three ENGS themes discussed at

Actions: AM

- 2008.9) meeting. EPEC requests the groups complete their deliberations and provide written reports by April 15th (in time for the 2nd Open Meeting on May 1st) and, if possible, have one further meeting at which students are encouraged to attend. EPEC encouraged Drs. Brooks and Houser to pursue the coastal theme to see if it can be made viable. EPEC discussed the need for a 'generic theme' (AM asked to e-mail students about their opinions) and the possibility of including technical electives and themes in future degree plans (to be discussed at future EPEC meetings). Technical electives discussed and AM to produce a technical electives web page reflecting the discussions and student feedback in time for this semester's advising.
- EPEC 2008.17 EPEC considered the Coull Report and made the following decisions/observations. EPEC considers Model 2 to be the best model for faculty affiliation. EPEC agrees with the observation that there is too much overlap in introductory (Geoscience) core courses in ENGS and ENST and proposes this to be discussed as part of degree program revisions in Fall 2008. AM to ask Joni Kincaid to get curricula and textbooks for these courses. The discussion of program revisions in Fall 2009 will include the need for ecology courses and revisions to ENGS tracks. Noted the consistency between student comments in the Coull report and others we had considered. We noted the need to continue improvement in advising, professional seminar and internships/REU. **Action: AM**
- EPEC 2008.18 SM introduced the course proposal for GEOS489 Data Analysis Methods in Geosciences. EPEC discussed faculty reactions and urged SM to submit a course proposal to UCC which EPEC would support. Noted need to discuss this proposal with Dept. of Statistics. **Action: AM/SM**
- EPEC 2008.19 Discussed ENGS advisor assignments. AM agreed to convene an ENGS advisors meeting next week. **Action: AM to arrange meeting**
- EPEC 2008.20 SB introduced dialog between ENST and Judge Justice Center (UT Austin) concerning environmental law.
- EPEC 2008.21 EPEC discussed the issue of internships with KW. He had a number of interesting ideas in this area which EPEC felt the programs would benefit from. AM to formally request KW produce a plan for internships. **Action: AM**
- EPEC 2008.22 Dates for next EPEC meeting April 24, 9.00-11.00 in 202i unless notified otherwise.