Annual Report  
Educational Policy Committee  
2013-2014

Membership: Dolita Cathcart (Chair), Provost Linda Eisenmann, President Ronald Crutcher, Alberto Bianchi, James Freeman, Chris Kalberg (first semester) John Kricher (second semester), Talitha Espiritu, Felicia Stewart ’14 (Student Representative, Fall Semester) Also Attending: Associate Provost Joel Relihan (Non-voting Member) and Susan Colson ’96 (Recording Secretary).

The Educational Policy Committee met approximately once per week during the academic year 2013-2014. Over the course of many of those meetings, the committee discussed at length several major initiatives, including post-graduate curricular initiatives (BA /MA, Post-Baccalaureate Programs, Summer Institutes), credit-bearing internships, online courses and the efficacy of Connections, in addition to the regular business of the committee.

General Education Curriculum:
- The committee reviewed the QA Guidelines to consider a clearer understanding of what constitutes a QA designation;
- Regularized designations for all 100-level language courses by adding the foundational FL designation and by removing area and divisional designations;
- Established a separate CW subject designation for creative writing courses effective fall 2014. These courses will continue to count toward the English major. The division will remain Arts and Humanities and the Area will change to Creative Arts;
- Approved course number and title changes for several courses and revised the course approval form;
- Reviewed survey results of Summer 2013 courses.

Majors and Minors
- The committee approved the elimination of the Mathematics and Computer Science Major;
- Reviewed and approved the proposal from the Education Department for a change in designation of the Education Licensure Minors to Education Majors (as second majors);
- Reviewed and approved limited alterations to the Business and Management Major;
- Approved when proposing a new major, eliminating a major, or changing the name of a major, departments must specify in the proposal to the Educational Policy Committee when the change will go into effect and present any issues the change may present.
Post-Graduate Program: Master’s Degree in Medieval Studies and Medievalism
The committee had lengthy discussions throughout the fall and spring semesters about possible graduate programs at Wheaton College, in particular a proposal for a Master’s Degree in Medieval Studies and Medievalism. Discussion is continuing. (See Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Post-Graduate Curricular Initiatives.)

Program Name Change: Approved the proposal to change a program name from “Women’s Studies” to Women’s and Gender Studies” effective 2014.

Credit-Bearing Internships
Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on credit-bearing internships Professor Talitha Espiritu and Director of Career Services Lisa Gavigan presented the subcommittee’s draft report on granting credit for internships (only to those students whose internships require academic credit). The ad hoc subcommittee determined that the Bates model for credit-bearing internships was the best fit for Wheaton at this time. This model will serve as a stop-gap measure until fuller discussions take place with the faculty to develop a Wheaton model that will guarantee the academic integrity of credit awarded for internships. The committee supported the subcommittee’s suggestion to form a working group to set internship goals as well as to look at experiential learning at Wheaton and recommended that the Co-Chairs present the subcommittee’s draft report to the faculty at the April 4, 2014 Faculty Meeting and the final draft for a vote of the faculty on May 15, 2014. (See Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Credit-Bearing Internships)

Beyond the West
➢ The committee reaffirmed the policy that BW may be taken at another college or overseas, subject to approval from the appropriate department chair or program coordinator;
➢ The committee also reaffirmed that Educational Policy committee should continue approving proposals for BW designations, especially since the committee oversees the curriculum;
➢ Approved Beyond the West designation for 9 courses.

New Courses: Approved the addition of 14 courses (some of which were experimental courses now receiving formal course numbers).

Faculty Initiated Connections: Approved six Faculty-Initiated Connections and approved amending three Faculty-Initiated Connections. (See attached for list of new FI Connections.)

Student Initiated Connections: Reviewed and approved 81 SI Connections Proposals

Ad Hoc Subcommittees of the Educational Policy Committee
The committee established four ad hoc subcommittees of the Educational Policy Committee
➢ Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Credit Bearing Internships
Charge: The ad hoc subcommittee is charged with investigating the need found in the academic community and the business community to attach academic credit to internships; what models other schools are using for credit bearing internships, how Wheaton can move toward designing a workable model for credit-bearing internships; and Wheaton’s own experience or history with internships and our ways of assessing experiential learning. Members: Talitha Espiritu (Co-Chair), Lisa Gavigan (Co-Chair), Kathy Morgan, Laura Muller, Bianca Cody-Murphy, Scott Shumway, Mark Hoesly, Vereene Parnell, Raquel Ramos

➢ Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Online Learning
Charge: The ad hoc subcommittee is charged with investigating how to further integrate technology in the curriculum in order to enhance students’ learning experience at Wheaton. After evaluating the college’s first summer session online course, the ad hoc subcommittee will now seek to assess the cost effectiveness, long-term goals and viability of online learning at Wheaton College. Members: Alberto Bianchi (Chair), Deyonne Bryant, Pete Coco, Rachelle DeCoste, Scott Hamlin, Kathy Morgan, Montse Perez-Toribio, Josh Stenger

➢ Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Connections
Charge: Begin preliminary investigations and discussion of the goals and effectiveness of Connections as a major piece of the Wheaton Curriculum. Members: Chris Kalberg (Chair), Jonathan Brumberg-Kraus, Jason Goodman, Kathy Morgan, Felicia Stewart ’14 (student member).

➢ Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Post-Graduate Curricular Initiatives
Subcommittee A
Charge: As part of an effort to diversify sources of revenue for the college, the ad hoc subcommittee will explore the possibility of expanding Wheaton’s curriculum through the creation of graduate programs. The subcommittee’s goal is to determine 1) which type(s) of graduate programs (Post-Baccalaureate, M.A. Summer Institutes, etc.) are most likely to generate net revenue for the college and 2) are best suited to enhance the mission of the college and to expand the curriculum by taking advantage of Wheaton’s existing assets. Members: Dolita Cathcart (Liaison to the Educational Policy Committee)

Subcommittee B
Charge: The ad hoc subcommittee will evaluate the potential impact of graduate programs on the faculty and departments. Specifically, the subcommittee will examine issues involving faculty workload and compensation, the use of department resources and workload distribution in individual departments, and recommend how best to implement such programs, recognizing that programs may vary among departments. Members: Dolita Cathcart (Liaison to the Educational Policy Committee)

Student Attendance
The faculty and staff members of the committee were disappointed at the continued lack of attendance by student members. We hope the students will be reinvigorated next year and will attend with regularity.