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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Educational Policies and Programs Committee  
FROM: Rick Ford, Secretary  
DATE: November 17, 2013  
SUBJ: EPPC AGENDA – November 21, K-207, 2:30 p.m.

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**Members present: Boyd, Cross, Crotts, Donoho, Ellingson, Ford, Kaiser, Kipnis, Lee, McConkey, Nichols, Roll, Schierenbeck, Thompson (Bryan), Schindler, Lillibridge, Bowen, Knight (Loker), Baumgartner-Lee, McAllister, Herren (Barrett), English (Ratekin)**

1. Approve **minutes** of November 7, 2013 meeting

It was asked that attendance be added to the minutes. A clarification to page 3 of the minutes was discussed: The certificate or advising pattern in outdoor leadership will stay, but the certificate would be discontinued. The Chair stated that the minutes can be passed now subject to revision at the next meeting. This motion was M/S/P.

2. Meeting **agenda** was approved

3. Announcements:

Michelle McConkey announced a concert on 12/1 –

Nicole McAllister announced a sex positivity workshop would be held by the Associated Students.

4. Discontinue: Option in Outdoor Education (BA in KINE) (presented by: J. Trout, R. Lytle, T. Ciapponi, C. Hsieh, C. Buschner, T. Fahey, C. Himberg) **Introduction Item**

- a) The Chair reiterated the issue at hand is to decide whether or not we should move this item to action status. A vote against now or at action would mean that the proposal would be returned to the department and the Option in Outdoor Education would remain as a suspended program. A question was asked whether new materials could be added after a positive vote to approve the proposal as an introduction item. The Chair explained the process, but the answer was basically, “yes”. The Chair reiterated that a positive vote meant that we felt the item was worthy of future consideration at action.
- b) A question for further clarification was made and it was explained that the vote outcome depends on the majority of the number of people who actually vote. Abstentions simply don’t count.
- c) The Chair explained some items have already been requested of the proponents: consultant report, specific goals, actual costs, and others and explained they do not need to be asked for again. The Chair then explained procedures that we will follow and time limits of 25 minutes per item starting at point number 4, 5 and 6 as outlined in the discussion format distributed by The Chair.
- d) The Chair then turned the floor over to proponents Rebecca Lytle, Josh Trout, Catrina Himberg, and Maggie Payne. Josh gave a brief presentation about the proposal and made several points for EPPC to consider. A senator asked for clarification regarding adjunct and TT faculty. Rebecca Lytle also delivered a short presentation in support of the proposal.
- e) **FACULTY RESOURCES:** After the presentation the discussion began regarding faculty resources.
  - i) An observation was made by a senator that some of the classes listed for discontinuation were courses that preceded the program and it was asked why it became too expensive since they had been offered since 2003. Rebecca Lytle explained that the classes were expensive, but that greater resources were available 8 years ago. Maggie Payne explained that the immersion course costs significantly increased since the program was approved as an option (\*\*see page 3 history), as did the WTU assigned to those courses. A senator asked

- how furloughs figured in. Dean Payne explained that the furlough years were not the only problem, but that the continuing budget reductions over several years made a major impact on the program and college.
- ii) A senator asked for clarification on a possible discrepancy between the original Outdoor Ed program claims when it came to EPPC for approval and the current history of actual costs. At issue was whether the program could be properly run with only a single TT faculty member. Dean Payne explained other safety issues related to supervision in the back country. As a follow-up it was asked whether students ever lead groups in the wilderness. Lytle explained that there was always trained leaders involved. Another senator with knowledge of the program offered that the trained leaders were always qualified instructors.
  - iii) A senator noted that when the program was originally approved there were 2 TT faculty involved and that resources were discussed during that approval process. She explained there is a difference in what PT and TT bring to those positions. She expressed concern that only one TT was involved in the program, that more faculty are required. A senator asked for Jacquie Hudson to be recognized. Jacquie said that the size of the program at the time it was suspended could be handled with only a single TT faculty member. A senator replied that the point was that the original approved proposal called for two TT faculty, not one. Another senator said she believed some programs can be run with a single TT faculty member. It was asked what actions were taken when the second TT faculty member left the program. Lytle responded that the direction of the department had changed by then and that discussions about the program transpired, but the program remained in a position of significant financial demand. Jacquie explained that it was a small program and felt it was adequately run with only one TT.
  - iv) A senator gave some data from the proposal and pointed out that the number of majors was dropping.
  - v) The discussion on item 4 concluded.
- f) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** The Chair then opened the discussion of administrative support (item 5, starting on page 7 of the proposal).
- i) It was asked why the field trip expenses were so great. Lytle explained that analysis indicated that it would require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  person to handle that paperwork. Dean Payne said the college had audit information that indicated that too much had “fallen through the cracks” indicating that the program management support was understaffed. Catrina Himberg was recognized and spoke to the exodus of staff from the department due to the stresses of working in that uncomfortable environment and that the department simply can’t continue operating with less help and that conditions had become intolerable. Jacquie was recognized again and spoke to the fee structure and pointed out that only two related to outdoor ed. She explained that conditions became chaotic due to so many people leaving. Catrina Himberg was and said that she had heard the exodus of staff was mainly because of outdoor ed. The Chair explained that we would try not to go down the path of hearsay.
  - ii) “Sammy” was recognized and asked about the part of the proposal that mentioned that adventure outings is spoken of as a viable option for students interested in outdoor education when that program is not lead by faculty. Dean Payne explained that academic credit could be earned through those kinds of programs. That way they could gain the excursion opportunity and “have it count”. Sammy explained that most adventure outings excursions are fully run by students. Maggie Payne explained that adventure outings had an administrative structure in place.
  - iii) “Riley” was recognized and explained that the low student response to meetings organized by the college was due to poor timing and communication. Morgan Geddie explained that a doodle was sent to all students, but only 2 responded. Payne added that the college is still in the process of trying to organize these experiences for students.
  - iv) Sammy asked why these opportunities were not offered sooner and why was no formal teach out plan organized yet. Payne explained the teach-out plan started when the suspension occurred and that additional opportunities were being explored to help for this coming spring.
  - v) Nate Millard added that the new options had not been available previously because adventure outings had preferred to stay away from this process until recently. A question was asked about the teach-out plan. Payne responded that non-immersion courses can be used in the teach-out. Lytle pointed out that the catalog says to consult advisors for non-immersion alternatives. A senator observed sometimes a teach-out won’t meet the highest expectations.
  - vi) A senator with knowledge of the program explained that the non-immersion alternatives were primarily for those who came to the university with extensive experience already. This senator also explained that he had proposed plans for an efficient and economical immersion but that those plans were ignored. He asked if other plans were considered relative to the teach-out besides non-immersion alternatives. Payne replied that no other plans to teach-out students were considered since the plan they had was workable. She explained immersion courses could not be offered due to resources and the park restrictions where they were usually held. Another senator asked why the immersion course could not be taught. Payne replied that the faculty were not available and the park was not available.

- vii) It was observed by a senator that the number of outdoor ed majors dropped from 30+ to 10 and asked if those no longer enrolled had graduated. Payne explained that some had, but that some had changed their majors.
  - viii) A senator asked the proposers if there is any possibility of bringing this program back under the support of multiple departments. Lytle said Outdoor ed is an important academic endeavor and that it's important that it come back and that there are dialogs going on regarding multidisciplinary approaches and that discontinuance would further these efforts.
- g) The Chair stopped the conversation at that point due to the time constraints. She explained only ten minutes remained for open discussion. M/S to limit speakers to three minutes. Joe said it requires 2/3 majority. Motion passed.
- i) It was asked if other departments could work on the revival if it remained in suspension. A senator explained that a suspension should not imply a commitment for the department to bring it back.
  - ii) A senator pointed out that a lot of stakeholders are in the audience.
  - iii) A senator observed there seemed to be dysfunction in the department due to this program and asked if there was a mechanism to support the department and can we learn from this experience.
  - iv) Another senator said the newly adopted suspension policy is designed to help and that the college will be responsible to help with the teach-out the students.
  - v) One senator asked if consultation was required with students under the current rules. The response was “no under the current rules”.
  - vi) Another senator explained that students were surprised that at a major meeting organized to discuss the suspension that no one was available to answer questions and asked whether communications were sufficient during this process.
- h) The Chair announced that the 10 minutes time limit had expired and that it was time to vote. M/S/P (Nichols) to vote by secret ballot.
- i) The vote passed (16/8) in favor of accepting the proposal to discontinue the Option in Outdoor Education program as an introduction item. Moved to action on the next EPPC agenda.
  - j) A senator thanked the committee and participants. Another senator thanked the students. A senator expressed that other programs currently in limbo should be dealt with. The Chair said she would look into it and that it would likely be best to discuss programs in limbo next semester as a discussion item.

## 5. Other

A senator asked when EPPC should vote on using secret ballots. The answer provided was that the decision to vote by secret ballot should occur at the conclusion of discussion. Another senator asked if administrative resources could be made available to help students in the transition for suspended programs to bring new life into the department. A senator thanked the whole committee for the fair treatment and honest way that the discussion has gone. The Chair thanked the students for their dedication. The processes involved in the future deliberations regarding the proposal were explained.

## 6. Adjournment: approximately 4:45 pm.

*\*\*History of KINE 470 according to university records: This course was originally added as PHED 270 effective fall 2002. At the time that this new course was proposed, it was a 9 unit course and was titled “Practicum in Outdoor Education.” It did not appear in the catalog at this time because the catalog cycle was 2001-2003. The course did appear in the 2003-2005 catalog. In fall 2005, the course was changed from PHED 270 to KINE 470 with the same title and number of units. Effective spring 2011, the name of the course was changed to “Outdoor Education Immersion Semester” and the number of units were increased to 15.0. Again, because the campus was still using a two year catalog cycle, this change didn’t appear until the 2011-2012 catalog.\*\**