

DRAFT

Department of ESP&G *Faculty Meeting Minutes* 17 October 2008

Present at the meeting: Jim Krest, Jim Gore, Joseph Dorsey, Ambe Njoh, Kathy Carvalho-Knighton, Chris D'Elia, Erica Asano, Armando Hoare, Eric Steimle, Donny Smoak and Chris Meindl.

Department Chair Donny Smoak called the meeting to order just after 10:00 am and made several announcements:

1. The ESP&G Program has 168 undergraduate majors.
2. The Dean made clear that if faculty members would like a peer review of teaching, they should feel free to ask that this be accomplished.
3. Donny presented the faculty with a revised list of "chair's duties."
4. Apparently some senior citizens who audit classes have inadvertently grown to dominate those classes; faculty should be aware that such "senior [auditing] students" do not have to be admitted into classes.
5. The undergraduate program/major is slated for external review later this school year.

Ambe Njoh made his case to become a faculty member in the Dept. of ESP&G. He argued that he is more comfortable in an urban planning and policy oriented setting rather than political science, and suggested that he would be happy to work with Joseph Dorsey to help bolster the policy side (track) of the major. Ambe added that he would continue to teach virtually all of the classes he now teaches anyway (so that political science majors would not notice any difference in the courses offered). The ESP&G faculty present voted unanimously to accept Ambe into the program. Welcome aboard Ambe!

Jim Gore reported that the new building is progressing and that there will be four labs for the College of Marine Science and four labs for USFSP (although one of these might be only a "shell" without any equipment). He asked if those who had lab space in the existing University Research Lab building (on 3rd Street) wanted to move to the new building please notify Jim.

Donny Smoak added that the Dean was willing to request a visiting or instructor line for physics and math. Chris Meindl added that if the need was so extreme, we should add to this request a second permanent instructor of math (only).

Chris D'Elia called for an annual report from all C-Space participants by 1 December 2008. Apparently C-Space grant recipients have until September 2009 to end all grant activities.

Chris D'Elia added that the Coastal Cities summit will meet at the Tradewinds resort in St. Petersburg from 17-20 November 2008, and that student volunteers could receive free attendance to the conference for a day.

Jim Krest suggested that we might want to revise our Academic Learning Compacts (ALC's) for the major. It was agreed that we need further discussion of this emerging issue. Also, our campus has 127 General Education courses on the books (even if many or seldom if ever offered) and we should probably cut this down to between 50-60 courses. This will help us get rid of needless duplication.

The ESP&G Department now needs to prepare tenure and promotion guidelines (which were removed from the Department's by-laws last year, as requested from the administration). Jim Gore asked the Dean for guidelines and the Dean agreed to provide minimum standards that all departments ought to incorporate in their T&P guidelines. Jim distributed paper copies of T&P guidelines that the ESP&G Department had produced more than a year ago. This issue was tabled for later discussion.

Chris Meindl asked that ESP&G faculty members make clear to Armando Hoare exactly what the graduate level statistics class should contain. It was agreed that all applicants to the graduate program should have taken at least one undergraduate statistics class or they would have to take such a class before taking the graduate level statistics class. Armando had to leave the meeting before we could engage in more discussion of this issue and we agreed to have a more significant discussion in the coming weeks.

Given that we now have our first crop of graduate students under pressure to conduct research and prepare theses, Chris Meindl also asked if the Department wanted to clearly announce a policy regarding plagiarism. Faculty agreed that such a department policy was not necessary because faculty members who detected instances of plagiarism could follow the university's policy (which gives professors much latitude in how they handle these cases).

Kathy Carvalho-Knighton reported on behalf of the Department's Curriculum Committee. Faculty agreed to suggest all majors take Biology I and II as freshmen (rather than as sophomores, as is current practice) and that majors should take Intro to Environmental Science and Historical perspectives requirements in their sophomore (rather than freshman) year.

Faculty were encouraged to scan the list of electives and identify courses that they did not think would be offered any more often than once every three years—and strike them from the planned program sheet advisors share with majors.

Faculty were asked to launch the process to create permanent course numbers for elective classes that are currently offered as special topics classes.

Faculty members were also asked to determine if their elective classes should be counted toward either the science or policy tracks within the major, and forward this information to Kathy C-K by 1 November.

Faculty were also asked, when submitting class schedules, to make clear in OASIS if prerequisites are required for their classes.

The faculty decided that Environmental Law, which is required of undergraduate policy track majors, should not be cross-listed as an EVR 4930 course because it is already listed as a POS 3697 course. It should be noted that for now, Environmental Law is listed as a graduate level EVR course. Along the same lines, Chris Meindl agreed that Natural Hazards should not be cross listed as an undergraduate EVR course because it is already listed as GEO 4340.

Chris Meindl also suggested that although requiring Environmental Economics from policy oriented majors makes excellent intellectual sense, we might have a serious problem because the instructor for that course (in the College of Business) claims that she can teach the class only once every three semesters (and not during summers).

Finally, Chris D'Elia and Chris Meindl suggested that we needed to have a more comprehensive discussion of issues related to the graduate program. Meindl agreed to plan such a meeting.

The meeting adjourned about Noon.