Faculty Assembly's
Educational Policy and Planning Committee (EPPC)
MINUTES
November 5, 2024 | 9:00 am
via Zoom: https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/97522609238

In attendance: Chair, Wendy Bolyard, School of Public Affairs; Vice Chair, Jeff Knight, CLAS; Jing Zhang, School of Business; Kodi Saylor, Library; Stephen Hartke, CLAS; Matthew Shea, College of Architecture and Planning; Margaret Woodhull, CLAS; Lori Elliott, School of Education & Human Development

1. **Wendy called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.**

2. **Approval of Minutes from September and October:**
   September Minutes approved.
   October Minutes approved.

3. **Pam Laird Scholarship – review candidates by November 15**
   Wendy will send scoresheets to everyone on the committee to be completed by November 15. The same rubric as las year will be used.

4. **Microcredentials**
   Microcredential Terminology/Taxonomies – document from Jeremy Lingle, director of microcredentials, TIPS Division. What suggestions does EPPC have for the review and approval of microcredentials?

   Margaret shared a document from CLAS (posted here). The meeting focused on the approval process for micro credentials at the university, with discussions on overlaps and the potential for multiple leadership badges. The committee discussed the concept of non-credit programs and badges offered by various student-facing services on campus. They questioned the value of these badges and whether they should be offered at the same tuition cost as credit programs. It was suggested that non-credit programs could be developed by non-academic units, potentially leading to a badge. Concerns were raised about who oversees approving these programs and whether every school or college would want to offer similar programs for financial gain. The team also discussed the definition of a "program" and the potential for revenue-driven activities.

   The committee discussed the concept of microcredentials and badges, particularly in the context of continuing professional education. They debated the distinction between these and actual courses, and the process of approval for such programs. Concerns were raised about potential overlap and the need for a clear approval process. The team also discussed the logistics of tracking and verifying these microcredentials, and the motivation behind offering them. The conversation ended with some confusion about the necessity of credentialing these programs.

With regard to impact on student enrollment, the discussion revolved around the need for evidence on the effectiveness of microcredentials and their role in increasing enrollment. Concerns were shared about the lack of evidence supporting the efficacy of microcredentials in generating new revenue or attracting new students. There needs to be a clear infrastructure around microcredentials which raised concerns about resource allocation for non-revenue generating programs and accessibility of services for non-credit students. The committee seeks clarification on the financial benefits of microcredentials.

Further discussion revolved around the potential impact of offering non-credit classes on the experience of degree-seeking students. Concerns were raised about the differentiation of content and experiences for students in different programs, and the potential for homogenizing experiences that are currently flexible. The overall consensus was that the proposed changes could raise questions about the quality of education and the experience of degree-seeking students. The importance of assessment was shared, as the value of a badge or recognition should require a clear assessment process. Faculty may be responsible for creating a new assessment process for badges versus credits.

Wendy will invite Jeremy Lingle to the next EPPC to discuss microcredentials.

5. **Academic Transformation Working Groups**
   - Progress reports available here.
     - Reimagining the Core
     - Academic Program Viability
     - Workload Parity
     - Time Use and Scheduling

The committee discussed the town hall being held tomorrow to solicit feedback on the reports which are publicly available. The group also discussed the feedback forms created for the working groups. Wendy shared that the Provost is considering creating a roadmap for the implementation of the working groups' recommendations. The possibility of adding a fifth group to look at administration was also discussed. The group agreed to review the working groups' reports and provide feedback before their next meeting.

6. **Other Business / Announcements**
   None shared.

7. **Adjournment**
   Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

Documents can also be found in Microsoft Teams.