

MINUTES OF EFC MEETING

APRIL 4, 2009

Members attending: Sam Burer (secretary) Forrest Nelson
Jon Garfinkel (chair) Lopo Rego (vice-chair)
Nancy Hauserman Sonja Rego

Also attending: David Baumgartner (Director, Career Services)
Sara Burden (Career Services)
Bruce Johnson (Accounting)
Kieran Leopold (Career Services)
Chuck Whiteman (*ex-officio*)

Called to order at 3:00 PM. Adjourned at 4:02 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Approved minutes of March 5 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Continued discussion of (Accounting) Experiential Learning

- Kieran described Career Services' handling of internship opportunities for students
 - "0-credit option," which allows a student to show internship on his/her transcript without credit; some are paid internships, some are unpaid; about 1200-1500 students per year; also triggers some formal tracking of internships by the university
 - Programmatic internships such as the Washington Center and the Des Moines Center; a few dozen students per year; course credit through a mixture of class work and experiential learning via internships; some paid, some unpaid
- Bruce described how the Accounting Dept is currently handling internships for course credit (see last month's minutes); a particular issue is whether students should get course credit for paid internships
- David mentioned the history of students getting credit for paid internships, which was not common around the 1950-1960s but is much more common now, in part because not allowing credit for paid internships is seen to hurt poorer students
- Nancy described the UPO's current policy on internships, which states that academic departments and faculty make the final determination as to what internship related activities qualify for course credit; few undergraduate students currently try to get credit for internships
- The committee continued with a broader discussion about maintaining academic quality in for-credit internships as well as the faculty resources needed to do so
 - Sonja pointed out that the quality of internships varies greatly, and so the academic content varies as well
 - Kieran mentioned that the Career Center monitors the quality of internships closely
- **The committee resolved that decisions related to course credit for internships should be made at the departmental level**