The EPC invited Professor J. Gerner, faculty liaison with the People Soft project, to report on the status of the conversion of student records to their system of record keeping. She noted that the process has been slowed by the fact that Oracle had purchased the company during the past year. The new student record system is not yet in place, and there is the possibility that implementation of it will not be fully accomplished until 2009, but when it is, all of the software upgrades will be included. It is hoped, however, that a basic part of the student system, the records, will start to show up during Fall 2006 and that the system will be complete sometime between January 2006 and July 2007. There are some significant issues with implementation of the graduate student aspects and there needs to be more feedback on the needs of graduate fields in their records.

EPC spent much of the year discussing a variety of issues that resulted in five resolutions going to the Faculty Senate. Resolutions are at the end of this report.

The Resolution on Web Posting of Grades failed.

The Resolution on Rule on Final Exams raised a widespread discussion that illustrated the following:
1. Faculty feel that the university has no business dictating whether they have a Final exam or any other "culminating" exercise. Faculty feel that how they evaluate students is their own business, and varies (properly) from course to course.
2. Many, if not most, of the faculty who spoke at the meeting were unaware that we had a "law on the books" requiring final exercises.
3. Most who spoke against the motion felt that the EPC should address the larger issue in (1) above by considering removing what they felt as "micromanaging language" from the rulebook. They felt that it was silly to leave in place a requirement they objected to and insert the Dean of the Faculty as some sort of go-between to gather information about said objections, case by case. Many asserted that if the motion passed, they would continue violating the existing rule and would be hesitant to go on record with the Dean of the Faculty that they were doing so.

The committee decided that this issue must be revisited next year. Clearly it needs widespread discussion because what is being done and what is in our own legislation are not the same. The suggestion was made that it be discussed at a Faculty Senate meeting for the purpose of gathering information about said objections, case by case. Dean Walcott said that he would talk with the chair of the department that has some courses with papers due the following semester.

The Resolution on Final Exam Schedule passed.

The Resolution on Evening Prelim times failed.
The Resolution on Academic Misconduct and Dropping Courses that passed contained some amended language that included reference to students found guilty of "academic misconduct and academic integrity". It was agreed that we would leave this issue for now and see how it works out.

A final topic for the year concerned the fact that four credit courses are being taught with three hours of contact time. There is inconsistency across the campus. It was agreed that this issue will be revisited next year.

EPC RESOLUTIONS FOR 4-12-06 SENATE MEETING

RESOLUTION ON WEB POSTING OF MEDIAN GRADES

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate resolved that median grades should be posted on student transcripts and on the web, and

WHEREAS, the median grades are now posted on the web, but not on the student transcripts because of delays due to adoption of a new Student Information System which depends on new Oracle software, and

WHEREAS, students shop for easier courses based on posted median grades,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate instructs the Registrar to remove median grades from the web until such time as median grades can be posted on student transcripts.

RESOLUTION ON RULE ON FINAL EXAMS

WHEREAS, the current rule for final exams on page 81 of the faculty handbook does not allow for exceptions, "...each course should require a final examination or some equivalent exercise ... to be conducted or due during the period set aside for final examinations"; and

WHEREAS, some specific courses are not following this rule in practice because of the nature of their cumulative final projects,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an addition be made to the end of this rule that states, "unless there is a written approval from the Dean of the Faculty"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dean of the Faculty be encouraged to publicize and enforce this rule and that he communicate to the EPC summaries of the requests he receives for exceptions to the rule.
RESOLUTION ON FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the new final exam schedule puts final exams on two Friday nights (one scheduled and one make up), and this creates a problem for large numbers of students who have religious observations on Friday nights,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate instructs the Registrar that after this spring exams that are scheduled on the one Friday evening be moved to the Wednesday of study week at 7:30 PM.

RESOLUTION ON EVENING PRELIM TIMES

WHEREAS, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) has suggested that evening prelims be changed to 8:00 PM in order to allow student athletes to have time if they are let out of practice at 7:00 to shower, change and get to the prelim promptly,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FACAPE proposal be adopted.

RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND DROPPING COURSES

WHEREAS, a student found guilty of academic misconduct can currently drop the course in which the misconduct occurred and suffer no consequences,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following be added to the appropriate legislation, “A student who is found guilty of academic misconduct in an official University hearing may not drop the course in which the transgression took place.”