**Committee on Education, Policies and Planning Minutes** : November 16, 2016

**In attendance:** Kelly Sheppard, Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Marta Brunner, Beau Breslin, Henry Jaffe, Nicole Werner, Janet Sorensen, Catherine Hill

Absent: Cerri Banks

1. Minutes of the November 11th, 2016 meeting were approved.
2. Africana Studies: Beau Breslin provided a brief description of the Africana Studies program. Beau proposed that the scope of the Africana studies program include both African American and African scholarship and scholars. An Africana Studies program if structured this way would parallel Asian Studies and Latin American Studies, which is expanding to include Latino Studies. It is currently undecided whether Africana Studies should be a major, minor, or program. There was discussion regarding the Africana Studies program. There are procedural questions regarding how this program would be considered and/or approved. Beau would like to see a proposal for an Africana Studies program prior to the end of the Academic year. The consensus of the group was supportive of the Africana Studies Program, with further discussion to follow.
3. Bridge Experience and Gen Ed Requirement: Erica Bastress-Dukehart asked whether we should move forward with a decision with the faculty concerning the Bridge Experience and the Gen Ed requirement and whether we can do so in this academic year. There was discussion concerning the Bridge Experience and the Gen Ed Requirement. The three points of greatest contention for the Gen Ed requirement are: whether the name “wicked problems” should be dropped from the first year experience – it was the consensus of the committee that “wicked problems” should not be required for the First Year Experience; the Bridge Experience requires another conversation with the faculty, but it is clear that the “lab” requirement is problematic; and we need to find a way to ensure that the Humanities does not view the Gen Ed requirement as a way to reduce courses in the Humanities. There was general agreement that we should continue to move forward with a discussion and potentially a vote on the Gen Ed requirement, but not at the December meeting. The discussion will continue after Thanksgiving.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.