CEPP Minutes

12.11.2019

Attendance:

Viviana Rangill (guest), Michael Arnush (guest), Noa Mills, Riley Filister, Michael Orr, Steve Ives, Feryaz Ocakli, Andrew Bozio, Jina Mao, Cerri Banks and Pat HIlleren (scribe)

Agenda Item

1. Minutes amended and approved.
2. Language Study Requirement Discussion with guests Viviana Rangil (World Lit Lang.) and Michael Arnush (Classics).

CEPP welcomed Viviana Rangil and Michael Arnush to contribute their insights to a discussion of two ideas that CEPP is considering to amend the Language Requirement of the new General Education Curriculum (adopted 5/18).

1. *Uncouple ELL from the GE curriculum language requirement (statement 2).*

Rationale:

Points of Discussion:

* There was broad support that this should be a separate issue.
* An effective ELL program will need additional resources as the number of students with need for support will likely grow. Classes exist on the books (EN 095 and HE100)- but we’re not sure how well they are utilized.

Action: Plan to amend the document to strike item 2. In addition, CEPP will request strong support for resources to support a more effective ELL platform. CEPP will inform the faculty of the process and rationale to remove the ELL component of the Language requirement at an upcoming meeting. Since this change does not alter the spirit of the Language requirement, it does not require a faculty vote.

1. *To revisit the requirement that all Skidmore students, regardless of experience and multi- language proficiency, be required to take a course in World Language and Literature as part of the GE curriculum.*

Rationale: Led, in part, by student voice and informed by conversations among CEPP members and members of the working group, there continues to be a robust discussion for the requirement that non-English speaking international students or any student who demonstrates proficiency in multiple languages to be required to complete a course in WLL as part of the GE curriculum. In the case of non-English speaking international students- the fact that they are required to learn content taught in English at Skidmore and are actively engaged in a non-native culture could be viewed to adequately satisfy the spirit of the Language requirement. In the case of students that demonstrate proficiency in multiple languages- the Language requirement could be viewed as an un-necessary burden.

Points of discussion:

* Should we not then, make exemptions for every GE requirement should a student provide evidence for having achieved a certain proficiency in that area?
* While it is useful to think about particular students and their experience- we can’t get lost in that…. we also need to think about the curriculum based on what we value as a College of the Liberal Arts.
* College-level learning is different than what a student brings based on high school learning and/or personal experience.
* Classrooms are enriched by the variety of skills and experience that students bring to bear…. many faculty take are intentional about using that disparity to the advantage of the entire class.
* This particular conversation (language requirement for non-English international students and multi-lingual students) is not new and it clearly isn’t going to go away.
* Despite these same arguments being presented on the faculty floor and in CEPP workshops in advance of the vote, the faculty passed the Language requirement in May 2018.

Action: Given the urgency – the new curriculum needs to be in place for Fall Semester 2020- CEPP will, for now, forego making any recommendations for exemptions to the existing Language requirement passed in May 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:35pm