Minutes for CEPP Meeting, April 20th, 2004

Present: Michael Arnush, Hugh Foley, Megan Fair, Francisco González, Charles Joseph, Ray Rodriguez, Paty Rubio (scribe), Gordon Thompson (chair)

I. Minutes of April 6th and 13th were approved.

II. Gordon informed of the $157,000 "Advising, mentoring and learning communities " grant proposal Skidmore submitted to Mellon. The $57,000 matching funds will come from the Phil Glotzbach's Mellon New President's grant. Michael indicated that although both projects (FYS) and the grant proposal should not necessarily be contingent upon each other, they should not work against each other either.

III. Preparation for the April 23 forum and the April 30 Faculty Meeting

April 23:
We agreed to ask Jon Ramsey to give a brief presentation re the differences between Advising and Mentoring, and the importance of connecting the latter to a first year course. During the Q & A, Hugh will refer to the professional rewards of his one-credit class with a mentoring component. Some new stats: 33% of first year students take courses with their advisors.
Terry Diggory will present the RAP and Linda Simon the Writing Component; Chuck will address staffing of FYS. Frank will demonstrate how his LS2 course can "easily" become a FYS.
We agreed on short presentations in order to give the faculty plenty of time to engage the proposal and ask questions.

We discussed the advisability and feasibility of making mentoring optional in FYS. Ray expressed that mentoring in FYS matters, as the mentor will help students not only with the RAP, but also in making broader academic connections with his/her first year academic experience. Frank expressed the need to make our colleagues excited about mentoring; we should not decouple mentoring from FYS because this is one of the centerpieces of the proposal.

We also discussed proposing a model for a resource team composed of student tutors, reps from CIT and, the Library, and the residential component. Michael will add language to the proposal on Mentoring and the Resource team.