**CEPP Meeting Minutes**

**2 November 2011**

**In attendance:** Michael Arnush, Logan Brenner (student), Rochelle Calhoun, Janet Casey, Rubén Graciani, Mimi Hellman, Christine Kopec, Susan Kress, Joshua Ness, Thomas Rivera (student), Timothy Harper (guest).

The minutes for the meeting of 19 and 26 October 2011 were approved with minor revisions.

CEPP members agreed to present the current proposal with whatever modifications it will make to take into account concerns from the faculty.

CEPP considered issues raised in recent weeks by chairs and directors in response to the current proposal: does one additional requirement solve the perceived need to educate our students better about difference? is the committee prepared to look at the entire general education requirement, particularly in the context of a potential new Scientific Literacy requirement (the timing of which proposal is yet to be determined)? or is CEPP committed to address what seems to be an immediate need to address diversity and difference in our students’ education now? CEPP decided that the proposal as currently articulated meets pressing needs and should receive faculty consideration this semester, regardless of any other proposals it might consider in the coming years. Members of CEPP also agreed that the current proposal still requires some modification and perhaps simplification of the definition of “Considering Difference’ [note: Josh, Michael and Tim will work on revising the criteria and simplifying the language of the proposal and then distribute the next draft].

This proposal, CEPP believes, signals the College’s priorities and values and improves the coherence of the general education requirement by asking students to deepen their engagement with, appreciate, and understand difference. A two-course requirement, particularly one which asks students to engage issues of difference from two distinct disciplinary perspectives, will also broaden and enrich their understanding of types of difference that define, separate and unite us.

Accordingly, CEPP agreed to host an open forum on Friday, November 18th (time and place TBD) for the faculty to consider the latest draft of the proposal. On Friday, November 4th, Josh will announce at the faculty meeting that CEPP is revising the proposal in response to the various concerns that faculty have raised and will share those revisions soon.

CEPP explored issues tangential to this specific proposal but germane to the larger concern about an increase in the general education requirement: Skidmore offers to and indeed encourages prospective and enrolled students the opportunity to explore in depth more than one discipline; as a result, many students pursue multiple majors and/or minors. While CEPP is not prepared to address this issue directly at this time, the members of the committee acknowledged that our curriculum presents students and faculty advisors with a considerable challenge: how to negotiate both a general core curriculum that may increase by 1-2 courses in the next few years and how to continue to embrace the opportunities of pursuing multiple fields of study.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arnush