CEPP Meeting Minutes

November 6th, 2019

Members in attendance: Peter von Allmen, Cerri Banks, Andrew Bozio, Riley Filister, Pat Hilleren (scribe), Steve Ives, Jina Mao, Noa Mills, and Feryaz Ocakli,

Meeting began at 2:32 pm

1. Discussion on the request by Beau B. on behalf of Idea Lab/AVD grant to consider a proposal that any evaluative forms of Idea Lab courses be immune for purposes of review for promotion and tenure.

In general, there was support on CEPP for the request/proposal but with some questions/concerns/ideas:

1. Concern about a faculty member who might teach one/two per year.
2. Concern for equity with other non-idea lab ‘new’ courses seeking to try innovation- indeed for any ‘new’ course.
3. Might we consider a limited immunity…within some reasonable limit- teaching the same course each year/multiple sections/semester?
4. Are we to envision the idea lab courses as incubator courses- would they end up in the regular curriculum?

Steve will reach out to Beau for some clarification-

1. Discussion on the language around the New York state law concerning religious holidays.

We learned that the College catalog already has some language regarding student religious observance rights as it pertains to academics and New York State law. Cerri and colleagues in the Student Affairs office in conjunction with Religious Life are drafting new language that hopes to offer more clear guidance – as it relates to both academics and extracurricular programming. We discussed a rough draft of this new language and offered some clarifying recommendations. The next step is for Cerri to present this to President’s cabinet and to ascertain what other programs the policy will inform/impact (e.g. student employment, athletic events, performances, etc.)

Finally, Cerri expressed the growing need to develop a consolidated online presence for these kinds of student’s rights policies to offer students easy access for information and document acquisition.

Encourage Michael to reach out to faculty again-

1. Update on Study Day. There has been some discussion on recent CEPP committees regarding consideration of a change in name to Fall Break Day. It seems that discussion initiated with a 2015 CEPP committee. While that CEPP was at one time in favor of the name change – the Registrar’s office informed us that it is NOT possible since the Study Day counts as contact hours whereas a Fall Break day could not. Given the late start of the Fall semester, we are already severely challenged to meet the required contact hours in the Fall semester- with little to no wiggle room. The change in actual day (away from a Friday of Halloween week) shouldn’t be a problem as long as it is published in the academic calendar in advance.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:31