

April 20, 2005

From: Committee on Educational Program and Planning (CEPP)

To: Task Force on Expository Writing Proposal

Subject: Task Force Charge

CEPP intends to submit a proposal to the faculty for a new expository writing requirement that will meet the needs of our students more adequately than the current requirement of one Writing Intensive course.

In order to facilitate the development of such a proposal CEPP is creating a task force consisting of representative faculty and students. The charge of the task force is to gather feedback on the teaching of writing that will inform the proposal, and to report to CEPP its recommendations. At its first meeting in early May 2005 the task force will draft an agenda and schedule for the coming months.

Although it is the prerogative of the task force to carry out its charge in a manner it deems most helpful, CEPP believes the following activities might be useful:

- meet with the Expository Writing Program to review and consider the information they have gathered
- research writing requirements at other colleges and universities with particular attention to our peer institutions
- gather information and data on student writing at Skidmore
- gather information about writing in the Scribner Seminars as the start of the students' experiences as college writers
- consult faculty about the nature of writing in their departments and their concerns about their students' writing
- consult students about their concerns about their own writing and about writing instruction in the courses they have taken
- meet individually with department chairs to ascertain how they think their department could contribute to a writing requirement
- identify the key elements to a rigorous writing requirement
- take into consideration the assessment of senior writing that will be conducted in summer 2005