

Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP)
2009-2010 Annual Report

Membership for 2009-2010

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, History, faculty representative (07-10 term); Chair 2009-2010
Rochelle Calhoun, Dean of Student Affairs, administration representative
Terry Diggory, English, faculty representative (08-11 term)
Rubén Graciani, Dance, faculty representative (09-12 term)
Mimi Hellman, Art History, faculty representative (09-12 term)
Susan Kress, Vice President for Academic Affairs, administration representative
Rik Scarce, Sociology, faculty representative (07-10 term)
Claire Solomon '10, Student Government Association Vice President for Academic Affairs
Bob Turner, Government, faculty representative (08-11 term)

Summary

CEPP met 29 times this year, including two retreats.

The committee held five forums and went to three Committee of the Whole discussions

The committee brought four motions and one joint resolution with the Committee on Academic Standards for faculty votes

CEPP members served on several committees, subcommittees, task forces, and initiatives, including:

- Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs (ACOP), a standing CEPP subcommittee (Rubén Graciani)
- Assessment Steering Committee, a standing CEPP subcommittee (Mimi Hellman, Claire Solomon)
- CEPP and Curriculum Committees Subcommittee on Course Caps, (Bob Turner, Chair, Mimi Hellman)
- Center Study Group (Terry Diggory, Chair, Rik Scarce)
- Information Resources Council (Susan Kress)
- Institutional Policies and Planning Committee (Erica Bastress-Dukehart)
- Quantitative Student Ratings, Dean's Cards initiative (Rik Scarce)
- Internet-based courses faculty survey initiative (Rik Scarce, Erica Bastress-Dukehart)

Over the course of the 2009-2010 academic year, CEPP addressed the following issues:

Academic Affairs Budget Priorities and Planning

Throughout the year CEPP discussed academic priorities and planning, focusing in particular on the fiscal constraints that already have affected or that may in the future affect educational policies and planning. Members of CEPP attended Academic Staff meetings and retreats where these issues were discussed more broadly.

***New York University College of Nursing Articulation Agreement**

The motion to approve the articulation agreement with New York University College of Nursing passed by unanimous vote at the October 2, 2009, faculty meeting.

***Caps Report**

CEPP endorsed the Caps report on October 7, 2009, with the request that the Dean of Faculty, in consultation with CEPP and the Curriculum Committee, review these increases in minimum course caps two years after implementation of the Enrollment Cap Subcommittee's recommendations.

***Goals for Student Learning and Development**

In collaboration with the Assessment Steering Committee, CEPP held two forums in October to listen to faculty input regarding the Goals for Student Learning and Development. At the November 6, 2009, faculty meeting CEPP requested a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Goals. The motion to endorse the goals passed by unanimous vote at the December 4, 2009, faculty meeting.

Assessment

Members of the committee met regularly with the Assessment Steering Committee to discuss future assessment initiatives, membership on the ASC, and the ongoing relationship between CEPP and the ASC. One of the primary goals for the Assessment Steering Committee next year will be to create a framework for assessing General Education courses at Skidmore. CEPP and the Assessment Coordinator, Sarah Goodwin, will continue to work together on future assessment initiatives.

Online Teaching and Learning

Discussions regarding whether Skidmore should consider offering online courses (both fully online and hybrid) were continued from last year. CEPP surveyed the Skidmore faculty regarding online teaching and learning and followed that survey with a discussion that included IRC members, representatives from the Registrar's office, and selected faculty who had indicated they would be interested in sharing their ideas with the committee. Challenging questions remain regarding online courses. CEPP will continue discussions about online teaching and learning next year.

Online course transfer credits

The committee had several conversations with Ann Henderson and Anita Harris as to whether Skidmore should change its policy regarding transfer credits of online courses from other institutions. Currently the college does not knowingly accept transfer credits from online courses. CEPP brought this issue to department chairs at a chairs meeting for a preliminary discussion and encouraged them to discuss this issue with their department colleagues. This is an ongoing matter that CEPP will continue to address next year.

***Expansion of the Skidmore in London Program**

The motion to expand the Skidmore in London Program passed by unanimous vote at the December 4, 2009, faculty meeting.

Department Name Change

CEPP approved a name change for the Department of Exercise Science to the Department of Health and Exercise Sciences

January Conferral of Degrees

The committee supported a proposal from the Registrar to formalize procedures for the conferral of January degrees.

***Policy to Appeal a Final Failing Grade**

After two years of discussions with faculty (including a forum and a Committee of the Whole at the March faculty meeting), students (including a March student forum organized by the Academic Council of SGA), administration, and College Counsel, and after many intense conversations within the committee, CEPP brought a motion for a Policy to Appeal a Final Failing Grade to the faculty for a vote at the April 9, 2010, faculty meeting. The Policy passed by a majority vote (98 yes, 27 no).

Intellectual Property Policy

CEPP reviewed the College's new Intellectual Property Policy, brought to the committee by the Dean of Faculty, Muriel Poston.

Mature students

The committee discussed how Skidmore might accommodate the educational needs of mature students now that UWW is in the process of being phased out. CEPP is concerned that as the College explores educational opportunities for Skidmore employees, it should address the needs of older students from the region who are interested in auditing courses or taking courses for credit. This is a discussion that CEPP will continue in the coming year.

Science Vision Plan

CEPP co-chaired a forum with Mark Hofmann, chair of the Science Vision Working Group, to answer questions regarding the Science Vision Plan. Issues that arose at this forum included resource and space concerns, the meaning of interdisciplinarity at Skidmore, the future of science requirements in relation to the General Education curriculum, and the role of the social sciences in the Science Vision. Discussions will continue next year.

Center Study Group Report

CEPP endorsed the Center Study Group report that the CSG presented to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Susan Kress. The VPAA reported to CEPP at the May retreat the steps she is taking to implement several of the recommendations made by the Center Study Group. The Study Group Report can be found at:

http://cms.skidmore.edu/academic_affairs/Center_for_Faculty_Excellence/index.cfm

Academic Calendar 2012-2013

In May, CEPP discussed and endorsed the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar proposed by Ann Henderson.

Guidelines for Tenure Track Search Proposals: 2010-2011

The Dean of Faculty, Muriel Poston, and the Associate Dean of Faculty, Patricia Rubio, joined CEPP at the May retreat to discuss this proposal and CEPP's role in its implementation. At the May 19, 2010, faculty meeting, CEPP requested a Committee of the Whole to allow faculty to ask questions and discuss their concerns with the DOF. CEPP will continue to work closely with the DOF on this issue next year.

Resolution for the Role of the Faculty in Recommending Students for Skidmore Degrees

CEPP and CAS brought a joint resolution to clarify the role of faculty in recommending students for their degrees. The resolution passed by unanimous vote at the May 19, 2010, faculty meeting. This resolution will be posted on the Committee on Academic Standing's homepage.

***Student Evaluations and Dean Cards**

Rik Scarce reported to CEPP at the May retreat on his findings regarding Quantitative Student Ratings of Faculty (Dean's Cards). This initiative was prompted by long-running concern about the quality and effectiveness of the Dean's Cards.

Skidmore in the 21st Century

Throughout the year, CEPP compiled a list of educational policy and planning issues that Skidmore is encountering now and will continue to face in the near and distant future. Included on the list are: Interdisciplinarity, what does it mean for Skidmore? General Education Requirements and whether they need updating; non-traditional students and whether we should increase their proportion in our enrollment mix; faculty teaching load; student engagement; revamping the Dean's Card evaluations; celebrating faculty achievements; pedagogy: is Skidmore behind the curve in thinking about new pedagogies that encourage students to engage in new and exciting ways?

Membership

In response to the FEC request to consider reducing faculty representation on committees, CEPP has proposed to FEC that the committee can effectively operate with one less faculty representative. The SGA Executive Committee has also proposed a reduction in student representation from two student representatives to one. Both proposals are before FEC for its consideration.

Chris Kopec and Josh Ness were elected to three-year terms and will replace Erica Bastress-Dukehart and Rik Scarce, who have rotated off the committee. Bob Turner will chair CEPP during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Chair
June 7, 2010

***indicates that these document can be found on CEPP's homepage:**

<http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/CEPP/>

All CEPP meeting minutes are also at this site.