

October 15, 2002  
Meeting #6

Present: Hugh Foley, Patty Rubio, Pat Fehling (Chair), Gordon Thompson, Ray Rodrigues, John Brueggemann (minutes), Nick Merrill, Chuck Joseph

The minutes of October 8, 2002 were approved.

We again took up the issue of developing an academic vision. CJ reported that he is planning to hold a meeting with Trustees, Chairs and Program Directors to discuss the prospects for an academic vision. He listed a number of themes that could hypothetically be central to a bold vision. They included independent studies, diversity, international studies, reorganization or elimination of general education requirements, fundamental learning capacities like critical thinking, academic standards as well as others that may be discussed later. After much conversation, CJ said he would generate and share with CEPP a broader list of such themes.

We then turned our attention to the new effort to revitalize LS1. CEPP needs to decide whether the reforms constitute substantive policy and, if so, whether they have promise. For the sake of comparison, CJ agreed to bring materials from the last round of LS1 planning. PF asked us to study the new document and prepare for discussion of its merits.

PF announced that CEPP has to review the new proposal for the Skidmore Program in China. She will prepare copies of the proposal and the guidelines for affiliation with the rest of the committee. We agreed that each of us would study the Faculty Handbook language on CEPP's role in this regard.

We then took up the proposal from the Department of Chemistry and Physics to split. PR requested that we see the "DeSieno Report" cited in the proposal. CJ agreed to provide it but clarified that it has no official standing in relation to the Dean of Faculty's office. PF reminded us of the criteria we must consider in evaluating the report, which include substantive goals, costs, student use-rates, and political strength and balance. JB provided a summary of his meeting with Mike Hall about the costs of small departments. Mike explained that the costs for the Chair's office space identified in the proposal are on target. The course release is likely to be \$4-5,000. If additional support staff is required, it will be approximately \$10-15,000 for one half an employee and \$20-30,000 for a full time employee. CJ pointed out that such information is useful but that CEPP's work should not be fundamentally guided by such information.

A wide-ranging discussion followed about the pros and cons of the proposal as well as the relevant issues not explicitly described in it. PF agreed to solicit additional information from the Department of Chemistry and Physics about such matters.