

Minutes for CEPP Meeting of 10/22/02

Present: Catherine Bookhout, Pat Fehling (Chair), Hugh Foley, Chuck Joseph, Nick Merrill, Pat Oles, Amelia Rauser, Ray Rodrigues, Paty Rubio, Gordon Thomson.

I. Reports

- PF introduced Catherine Bookhout to the committee
- PF discussed the China program proposal, which she is holding pending additional information from Mao Chen (especially in light of the Guidelines for Skidmore's Academic Affiliations)
- RR discussed the survey he crafted to assess reconfiguration. PO suggested assessing students as well as making use of extant information (senior surveys, etc.).
- PF reminded members about the Committee of Committees meeting.

II. Chemistry/Physics proposal

- PF discussed her email to Vasantha Narasimhan, in which she asked for additional information regarding their proposal, including:
 - What specific regional and national recognition are the departments receiving?
 - What is the critical mass that the departments feel is needed to warrant a separate PY department?
 - How are the two programs deemed to be independently strong?
 - What are the costs (and the timeline) associated with the curricular initiatives in the proposal?
 - How do the independent studies within the two departments compare with other sciences, other departments?
 - What sort of external funding proposals have the departments submitted?
- HF reviewed the summary enrollment statistics and AR reviewed the summary of contributions of CH and PY to other departments and programs.
- PF summarized the committee's concern that the proposal needed to be reworked before going to the floor of the faculty.
- AR commented that a discussion of vision may have an impact on perception of the proposal (specifically if we move to strengthen the sciences).
- PF said that we would await a response from CH/PY, which she would email to the committee.

III. LSI Proposal

- Michael Marx was requesting feedback on the proposal, although he did not believe that the revisions were substantial enough to require faculty approval
- After some discussion (with many positive comments on the proposal, as well as a few negative comments), PF tabled the discussion until the next meeting, at which everyone should be better acquainted with the proposal.

IV. Academic Vision (CJ's list of preliminary ideas)

- CJ plans to discuss the notion of academic vision with the trustees on Friday (at a meeting that PF would attend)
- A discussion ensued regarding the desire to increase opportunities for close student-faculty interactions, with some members expressing reservations about the costs associated with increasing the extent of such close interactions, others expressing reservations about seminars as one example of a class that espouses greater interaction, and others expressing appreciation for the role seminars might play.

V. Next Meeting

- PF discussed the likely topics for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh J. Foley