

## Minutes for CEPP Meeting of 2/5/03

Present: Michael Arnush, Catherine Bookhout, Pat Fehling (Chair), Hugh Foley, Chuck Joseph, Nick Merrill, Pat Oles, Amelia Rauser, Ray Rodrigues, Paty Rubio, Gordon Thompson. Invited guests: John Brueggemann, Sarah Goodwin.

### *I. Approval of minutes from Meeting #14*

- Minutes of 12/10/02 were approved.

### *II. Reports*

- PF reported that the course description change for LS1 had been submitted to Curriculum Committee. Michael Marx will address the faculty at the 2/7 meeting regarding the proposed changes.
- PF announced that because no CEPP members were interested in attending the spring conferences, she would work to obtain a report from people who do attend.
- PF reported that the Distance Learning proposal was bumped from the agenda of the next Academic Staff meeting, so they will discuss the proposal at a later meeting. The proposal was modified to include a segment on the role of the faculty advisor.
- PF reported that the proposal to split CH/PY into two departments was on the agenda for the faculty meeting of 2/7.

### *III. Academic Vision*

- PF summarized past committee discussions of Academic Vision, then turned the floor over to CJ to address the future of Academic Vision.
- CJ described the current fiscal difficulties as presenting a "wonderful challenge." He felt that discussions of Academic Vision remained crucial. However, he also felt that, in response to fiscal constraints, Skidmore was going to have to become smaller in several ways and that the pace of any change would likely be slower.
- SG argued for the importance of a consensus about priorities as a platform for making fiscal decisions. She thought that fiscal concerns would likely affect many decisions for a few years. For example, even though everyone values the importance of one-on-one interactions between students and faculty, a discussion of giving faculty credit for independent research and senior thesis should probably be deferred for a while.
- MB also discussed the importance of setting priorities, while acknowledging that the faculty culture is slow to change, so the imposition of fiscal constraints would be difficult.
- CJ discussed his perception of the reaction of the Board of Trustees to the current fiscal difficulties, as well as the status of the Strategic Plan.
- PO voiced his perception of the concerns of the Board of Trustees about increased benefits costs.
- Several committee members recounted incidents from Skidmore's past in which fiscal problems forced the college to make difficult decisions.
- PO argued that groups of faculty committees should be jointly involved in the process, because future decisions were likely to have an impact on several different areas (e.g., student life, academics, financial).

- CJ stressed the importance of making CEPP's concerns known to the Board of Trustees. He also stressed the importance of due deliberation of any proposed changes, with the accumulation of all necessary information (e.g., costs) before initiating changes.
- PF brought the meeting to a close with an acknowledgment that discussion of Academic Vision would remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh J. Foley