

CEPP Minutes | Meeting #25 | 9 April 2003

Present: Michael Arnush, John Brueggeman (for Chuck Joseph), Pat Fehling (chair), Hugh Foley, Pat Oles, Amelia Rauser, Ray Rodrigues, Patricia Rubio, Gordon Thompson (scribe).

Minutes

1. PR will send corrected minutes for Meeting #23.
2. CEPP approved AR's minutes for meeting #24.

Awards

1. Request from Vasantha Narasimha (25 March 2003) to terminate the award from the American Institute of Chemists Award and "to move that award into a revised Charlotte W. Fehey Prize in Chemistry. (PF distributed a copy of VN's email at meeting #24.) The primary problem is that the AIC Award has insufficient funds and the Fehey Prize has a surfeit. The proposal from VN is to move the remaining AIC funds into the Fehey Prize and create two Fehey prizes. The new description would read: "The Charlotte W. Fahey Prize: Established in honor of Charlotte W. Fahey, Professor of Chemistry, 1937-1975, by her colleagues and friends, and awarded annually to two seniors who have demonstrated superior academic performance and research potential in chemistry." CEPP approves the request.
2. CEPP discussed its role in departmental and program decisions to split student awards. (Last year, CEPP set a precedent by allowing History Department to split an award after a presentation by Tad Kuroda.) We considered several questions. Does this splitting of awards diminish their importance? Is this the business of CEPP? PF advised us that current guidelines ["Academic Prizes: Guidelines and Procedures" approved by CEPP, 5 December 1990] indicate that CEPP is the final arbiter in the establishment of awards. ["All proposals for new academic prizes, or for changes in established prizes, are reviewed by the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning, which holds final authority over all such decisions."] The guidelines also identify the Dean of Studies as the principal liaison between potential donors, Development, the appropriate department/program, and CEPP. Moreover, the DoS generally administers the process of granting academic prizes. CEPP recommends that such decisions stay in the Dean of Study's office.
3. Part of CEPP's charge is to oversee the equitable distribution of awards across the College. We questioned CEPP's role in individual decisions to bestow awards. We recognize that large departments and programs have many more students to recognize than other academic units on campus. What is CEPP's role in the way in which awards are distributed? Our information is that this year's honors ceremony will be in Gannett rather than in the Murray Dining Hall. What is the value of a college-wide ceremony? CEPP considered the relationship between the importance of standards and expectations and the role of honors in awarding achievement. CEPP would like to include this in its discussion of vision this summer. [CEPP allots the task to GT.]

Wesleyan Conference on the First-year Experience

1. CEPP read a report from Tina Levith concerning this recent conference. [We also wondered why Skidmore, which hosted this conference last year, was not part of the discussions.]
2. PO offered his reading of the notes on the conference: how many schools have moved towards a F-yE. How many schools do not have a unifying common text.
3. CEPP discussed the effectiveness of F-yE seminars and comparability of different sections. Suggested reading: *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation* (Neil Howe and William Strauss).
4. CEPP needs to ground our discussions of the F-yE in our discussions about vision. As CEPP works towards consideration of the various components of the vision, we need to keep the F-yE in mind.
5. How does Skidmore approach the F-yE? What is the role of the student in our thinking? What is the role of "extra-curricular" activities? Advising? How do we approach the learning environment?

Beijing Studies Group

1. PR reports on meeting with the group. Effects on Chinese Language study. Assessment. Group will be advisory to the DoF through their fiduciary responsibilities.
2. PF: Sarah Goodwin's request about recruiting students for the program. CEPP wants them to wait until the program is approved.