

CEPP minutes, Friday, September 26, 2003: 9:00 AM

Present: Michael Arnush, Megan Fair, Hugh Foley, Frank Gonzalez, Chuck Joseph, Nick Merrill, David Peterson (scribe), Ray Rodriguez, Paty Rubio, Gordon Thompson (Chair)

- 1) The minutes for the meetings of September 12 and 19 were approved without incident.
- 2) Gordon: Katie Hauser reported back from CFG their recommendation that CEPP hold its own elections (*willingness to serve*) for the ViSta sub-committees. Gordon declined CFG's offer to assist with the final selection of sub-committee members.
- 3) After some discussion the committee agreed that we should formulate only two sub-committees at this time: *The First-year Experience*, and *Global Skidmore*. Michael agreed to post an invitation-to-serve (via email) by Monday (9/29), with responses due on, or before, Thursday (10/2).
- 4) Chuck asked whether the committee had objections to his sharing the ViSta draft (including the *Recommendations*) with the Board of Trustees at their upcoming meeting, with the proviso that the document be seen as a "work in progress". It was noted that this information was already accessible (via "the web") to members of the BOT. Their were no objections.
- 5) **At this time, Kate Leavitt and Michael Marx (representing Liberal Studies) joined the meeting.** Gordon provided some background on CEPP's thinking re. its recommendations for changes to the first-year curriculum. Michael Marx provided an overview of the newly revised LS1 course (The Human Dilemma) and detailed his assertion that LS1 currently emphasizes and integrates the Four-C's highlighted in the ViSta draft. MM also noted that LS1 provides the only opportunity for all 600 first-year students to share a "common, rigorous, intellectually challenging experience". He further noted that LS1 "plays a central role in the identity of the college" and is looked upon as a model by other colleges. Kate Leavitt remarked that, should LS2 effectively replace LS1, many of the current LS2 courses would need to be substantially retooled. She further noted that, as current LS2 courses have larger class sizes (apx. 25 students) than LS1 sections, additional LS2 courses would be required. She voiced additional concerns that LS2 courses do not provide the same "shared experience" as LS1, and that they are not sufficiently broad or foundational enough to provide an adequate overview of the college as a whole (in her words, "who we are").

Polite discussion ensued.

Additional concerns expressed by MM and KL: feasibility of tying first-year advising to LS (*where do these students go after year one?*); replacing LS1 with LS2 may narrow a student's focus to early; the concern that LS1 is too "adjunct-dependant" may not be ameliorated by making LS2 the gateway course (as many LS2 courses are also taught by part-time faculty).

Kate Leavitt requested that the First-year Experience sub-committee include a representative from the current Liberal Studies program.

- 6) The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM (although it felt much later).