

CEPP Subcommittee on the First-Year Experience
Friday, October 31, 2003

Present: Phil Boshoff, Dan Curley, Terry Diggory, Hugh Foley, Kate Leavitt, Ruth Andrea Levinson, Tina Levith, Bill Lewis, Michael Marx, Nick Merrill, Pat Oles, Ben Porter, Anita Steigerwald, Gordon Thompson

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Hugh Foley began by stressing his role as a facilitator in the process of crafting a First-Year Experience (FYE), and addressing the composition of the subcommittee, which is as follows:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Advisors</u>	<u>“Floaters”</u>
Hugh Foley, Chair	Tina Levith	Gordon Thompson
Phil Boshoff	Michael Marx	Nick Merrill
Dan Curley	Pat Oles	
Terry Diggory	Anita Steigerwald	
Kate Leavitt		
Ruth Andrea Levinson		
Bill Lewis		
Ben Porter		

The bulk of the meeting was a series of reports by Members and Advisors on various Skidmore programs, and how they intersect with the notion of a FYE. (NOTE: What follows are select points from the reports, which were essentially distillations of handouts provided to all present.)

- Anita Steigerwald (Dean of First-Year Students) discussed the history of the FYE at Skidmore, and stressed the need for a comprehensive and cohesive program for our first-years — one that extends beyond orientation.
- Tina Levith (Associate Director, Dean of Studies Office) discussed first-year advising both at Skidmore and at other institutions. Successful models at the latter try to pair instructors with first-years enrolled in their classes.
- Phil Boshoff (Director, Honors Forum) discussed admissions and retention issues for first-year HF members.
- Michael Marx (Director, Liberal Studies 1) discussed recent changes to the LS1 curriculum, which has moved toward problem-based and integrative models of learning. The LS1 Planning Group is currently engaged in efforts to assess its revised curriculum.
- Kate Leavitt (Director, Liberal Studies 2) shared faculty responses to a survey, which asked for suggestions on the place of LS2 in a FYE. Faculty are especially interested in mentoring and advising — that is, shared experiences between students and faculty.
- Hugh Foley (Chair of the Subcommittee) asked those present to think about resources and the costs of a FYE as we proceed.

Hugh closed the meeting by requesting that the Subcommittee do the following:

- email Hugh with three “problems and solutions” (six items total) as regards both the current and an ideal FYE at Skidmore;
- meet in small discussion groups before the next official Subcommittee meeting (December 14); Hugh agreed to coordinate schedules and send along common meeting times; and
- look at FYEs at other institutions, particularly the living/learning community model of St. Lawrence (recommended by Ruth Andrea Levinson).

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Curley
Assistant Professor of Classics