

CEPP Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2004

M. Arnush, M. Fair, H. Foley, F. Gonzalez, C. Joseph, P. Oles, R. Rodriguez, P. Rubio (scribe), L. Simon, G. Thompson (chair)

Minutes were approved with amendments which Michael will make.

We all welcomed Linda, back from London, for her last semester on the committee.

Schedule:

Gordon distributed the Spring schedule.

1) CEPP will bring the disaffiliation of the Biosphere program for a vote to the Faculty floor.

2) CEPP discussed how to present VISTA to the faculty at its Feb. 6 meeting. CEPP's intent is that the faculty, after discussion, will endorse the four VISTA principles. Such endorsement is necessary before voting on the First Year Experience Proposal, which CEPP will present to the faculty at the March meeting. If the VISTA discussion seems inconclusive, CEPP will request for the proposal to lie over until the March meeting thus pushing the CEPP agenda back a month. Gordon will send the revised VISTA version to the faculty at the beginning of next week.

3) E. Sibolski, the Middle States liaison to Skidmore, will meet with CEPP on Feb. 10 to discuss the scope and possible foci of the upcoming Middlestates review.

4) Critical Thinking and Content, and Assessment Subcommittees:
After a vigorous discussion initiated by Linda, CEPP agreed to restructure the Critical Thinking and Content, and the Assessment committees. The decision was based on both the desirability for CEPP to be intimately involved with the issues, and on the disappointing number of respondents to the willingness to serve. CEPP charged Linda and Frank with developing a set of questions which Gordon will send to the faculty. Depending on the response they receive, they will also invite specific individuals to chime in. Hugh, Ray and Paty will similarly work on a set of questions which they will discuss with the Assessment Group (constituted by Ray in the summer) before submitting them to Gordon, who will in turn send them to the faculty. As in the previous case, Hugh, Ray and Paty may request input from individuals in particular.

5) AAC&U Report. The topic of the session organized by Skidmore focused on "How to deal with curricular change in times of financial

constraints". Over 60 individuals attended the session, who split in groups led by the Skidmore folks. Salient topics addressed were:

That many schools are facing similar challenges.

The need to work with various constituencies of the faculty on the issues in order to insure communication.

Presidents want change, but slowly.

Once academic and curricular priorities have been agreed upon, the President and the Board will secure the funds. Resources should not drive the academic agenda.

At least one school (Portland State) developed a Diversity Strategic Plan.

Some Deans are not allowing searches with finalist lists that do not include at least one minority candidate.

Assessment (also referred to as "Evidence of Learning") is a given. Institutions are securing outside funding in order to implement their assessment instruments, and are collaborating with peer institutions.

Deans and Presidents at some institutions are penalizing departments with the loss of a line when their positive recommendation for tenure is rejected by both the personnel committee and the administration.

We will meet next Friday at 8:00 in the ICC for our retreat.