

CEPP Minutes, 10 February 2004

Present: M. Arnush, M. Fair, H. Foley, F. Gonzalez, C. Joseph, N. Merrill, P. Oles, R. Rodriques, P. Rubio, L. Simon (scribe), G. Thompson
Visitor: Elizabeth Sibolski

Since Skidmore is scheduled for a Middle States review in spring, 2006, Elizabeth Sibolski attended our meeting to give us an informal preparation for the review. The college's last review occurred ten years ago, with an interim report (written, entailing no visits) occurring five years ago. Since our initial accreditation in 1925, no concerns or issues have arisen.

Since 2002, new accreditation processes and standards have been implemented by MS, with assessment featuring more highly among fourteen standards (seven focused on institutional effectiveness and seven on educational effectiveness). Among the educational standards are admissions, student services, faculty, educational programs, general education, and related educational activities such as distance education and non-credit work.

For the 2006 self-study Skidmore can choose a comprehensive model or a selected topics model that would likely focus on two topics: for example, academic revisioning and student culture.

CEPP expressed strong interest in being involved in the decision about what topics would be selected for study. Two decisions should be made this term: what topics to focus on and who would compose the steering committee for self study. ES would return in the fall to offer the college a formal preparation for self study. Chuck has material describing in detail types of self study that Skidmore can choose to undergo and the process and standards involved.

After ES left, CEPP decided to defer approval of the 2/3 minutes to next meeting, at which one topic would also be academic honors. Gordon said that certain groups have asked for a voice in the new first year experience plans: the Expository Writing Committee of the English Dept, and the Environmental Studies Program. We agreed that subgroups would meet with these groups to hear their concerns and bring them back to CEPP.

Based on comments by Michael about the relationship between LS and the Classics gateway course, Pat asked how many courses there are that serve particular programs as gateway courses; Gordon will report back on this question.

CEPP approved the wording of the motion to be presented at the faculty meeting on 2/13.

We then turned to problems or concerns about the first year proposal which include staffing, the handling of the transition year (esp. the elimination of the requirement for completion of LS2), student choice and engagement, departmental obligation to teach in

the new program, and the place of the writing requirement as part of the first year experience.