

Minutes for CEPP meeting of September 15, 2010

In attendance: Logan Brenner (student representative), Beau Breslin (FYE), Rochelle Calhoun, Terry Diggory, Rubén Graciani, Mimi Hellman, Chris Kopec, Susan Kress, Josh Ness, Paty Rubio (Assoc. Dean of Faculty), Bob Turner (Chair)

- I. Approval of minutes.** The minutes of September 8 were approved.

- II. Excellence in teaching.** Paty Rubio and Beau Breslin joined the Committee for a discussion of the course evaluation process. Paty explained the DoF response to low Dean's Card ratings, which includes conversations with department chairs and the FYE director (to identify themes for the New Faculty Learning Community). Beau reviewed data from Scribner Seminar evaluations in 2005-9 (the three-question form, not the long form). Discussion focused on several issues:
 - new SSP faculty may not be aware of evaluation questions when designing and delivering Seminars, and past ratings do not seem to help faculty shape re-delivery;
 - evaluation questions do not clearly correspond with SSP learning goals listed on syllabi;
 - an instructor's three ratings for SS courses are generally quite close, suggesting that questions may not capture different aspects of the learning experience;
 - departments and faculty frame evaluation process in different ways and ratings can be informed by gender and racial bias;
 - faculty may receive mixed messages about teaching excellence and the purpose of evaluations, and would benefit from a clearer understanding;
 - students would benefit from consistent guidance regarding the purpose of evaluations and how to complete them productively

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mimi Hellman