Minutes for the CEPP Meeting of October 12, 2011

**In attendance:** Michael Arnush, Logan Brenner (student rep), Rochelle Calhoun, Janet Casey, Ruben Graciani, Mimi Hellman, Chris Kopec, Susan Kress, Josh Ness (chair) and guests Corey Freeman-Gallant and Tim Harper

1. **Minutes.**  The minutes of October 5 were approved with minor revisions.

2. **Culturally- Centered Inquiry requirement.**

\*Corey was in attendance to present data he had on Skidmore's all-college curriculum in comparison to our peer and aspirant schools. Generally, we have relatively few requirements in relation to those institutions, as we have 10 required courses and most of the others are in the 12-18 range. Thus, while the impact of adding an additional requirement would not be insignificant, it would not put us out of the range of our comparable schools. Corey had additional data showing that about 25% of the courses a student would take over four years are electives, although this is not the case in disciplines with complex requirements for the major such as IA, Education, Theater and Pre-Med.

\* Michael and Tim then provided information they had obtained from attending the social science and humanities roundtables with chairs and directors (natural science meeting is in Jan but they will meet with them and with the arts folks individually in the next few weeks).The overall view of the new requirement was supportive although all participants noted that there were significant logistical problems. These involve whether the categories should continue to be Western/Non-Western or in some other format, and independently Tim and Michael concluded that perhaps there should be no categories but simply one big "silo" from which students must choose any 2 courses as long as they were not in the same department (similar to the requirement at Middlebury).

Other open issues: how should study abroad courses/ experiences be evaluated and validated; are new courses needed and, if so, how many; how many of those courses should be at the 200 level and/or without prerequisites; how to develop very clear guidelines about what courses will be included among those that will meet the new requirement. It was noted that an institutional mechanism is needed to evaluate the off-campus component of this requirement effectively and it is not yet in place. Despite these open questions, CEPP will aim to have this initiative on the November Faculty Meeting Agenda with an open forum to be held approximately 2 weeks after that meeting.

Other information/data (number of CD courses currently in catalog, number of seats currently needed, number of new seats which will be needed) provided by Michael and Tim indicate that we may not have to add more than perhaps 13-15 courses to meet the anticipated need, and that there are about 48 courses (but 13 have specific prerequisites) already listed in this year's catalog which could possibly fulfill the new requirement.

The discussion of the initiative will continue at next week's CEPP meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted by Christine Kopec