**CEPP Meeting Minutes**

**26 October 2011**

**In attendance:** Michael Arnush, Logan Brenner (student), Janet Casey, Rubén Graciani, Mimi Hellman, Christine Kopec, Susan Kress, Joshua Ness (Chair), Thomas Rivera (student), Timothy Harper (guest).

The minutes for the meeting of 19 October 2011 will lie over for future approval.

I. The committee discussed the SEE-Beyond fellowships to be funded by President Glotzbach’s Mellon Grant. The Office of Academic Advising shared with CEPP a draft of the award template for departments, as well as, criteria for the fellowships. According to Dean Freeman-Gallant all college departments and programs have indicated a willingness to participate in the program. One issue of concern raised by CEPP was a lack of clarity in the language regarding the awarding of academic credit for student work enabled by the SEE-Beyond Fellowship.

II. Vice-President Kress reported on the status of Skidmore’s ongoing relationship with the Mellon Foundation. Skidmore has been awarded over $3 million dollars in grants over the past five years. In preparation for a visit to the Mellon Foundation by President Glotzbach, CEPP discussed the possibility of another grant application. Current Mellon priorities fall squarely in line with Skidmore’s institutional priorities, including Goal III of the Strategic Plan, Science Vision, and Study Abroad opportunities. Skidmore hopes to begin preliminary stages of communication with the Mellon Foundation regarding a new grant opportunity. Vice-President informed will keep CEPP informed throughout the process.

III. The Chair reported that Mimi Hellman will Chair the Transition & Transformation sub-committee. The group will meet several times this semester with a focus on finalizing language for the charge, and identifying key issues and strategies, and moving forward. The sub-committee will bring an update to CEPP’s January retreat.

IV. The Chair reported on the status of the work the Dean’s Form Revision Group has been finalizing. The group is still gathering and analyzing data. The next step includes gathering feedback from the various stakeholders regarding the new Dean’s Form. Thomas Rivera (student) will continue to caucus with SGA and students regarding the new form and report back to CEPP. Several issues with the form were raised:

* Possible race/gender bias in the new form, or in these evaluations overall
* Opportunities to create better guide and instructional materials for students filling out the forms, especially freshman
* Whether the forms should be used in faculty evaluations for promotion and tenure

V. The Chair, Michael Arnush, and Timothy Harper (guest) reported on the mini round tables held with the Chairs of the Sciences, Educational Studies, and the Performing Arts regarding the Culture Centered Inquiry Proposal. Many concerns have been raised regarding the new requirement, including:

* A feeling from some faculty that there should not be an added requirement
* Is an academic course the best place to have this discussion or learning happen
* Do the courses as we have described them actually respond to the need of understanding Cultural Diversity, i.e. is CD the central aim of the course, or a by product of the material

Both Michael Arnush and the Chair brought several possible plans addressing how the college might move forward in adding a new CD requirement. The materials will be circulated in the coming week and discussed more fully at the next CEPP meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Rubén Graciani