CEPP Minutes December 3, 2013

Present: Beau Breslin, Peter von Allmen, chair, Caroline D'Abate, Pat Fehling, Amy

Frappier, Sarah Goodwin, Rubèn Graciani (scribe), Renee Schapiro, Charles Tetelman

Guest: Joe Stankovich – Institutional Research

Absent: Rochelle Calhoun

1. The minutes of 11/26/13 were approved with minor changes.
2. The CEPP reviewed a mock-up of results from the new campus-wide evaluation form provided by David DeConno and Joe Stankovich. The forms may require some adjustment for faculty as the data is presented in a more sophisticated manner than the previous reports. Of concern to CEPP were several questions regarding some details of the reporting on the forms, including:
   1. The possibility of page breaks to make the form more easily readable
   2. The possibility of adding an all-college comparison score to refer to with the overall course and instructor scores.
   3. The possibility of adding an all-college comparison to question 6.3 regarding how many hours per week students devote to the course
   4. The readability of the report itself. Given the forms complexity, there was concern over faculty preparedness to digest the information readily.

Additionally, a global index, which averages all scores throughout the form, was deemed not statistically relevant and will be left off the form. Mr. Stankovich will take the questions regarding page breaks, additional reporting with all college scores to the software company to see which, if any, of these are cost effective to implement. It was also agreed that Mr. Stankovich will prepare a key to help faculty in reading the new forms. In the interim, Mr. Stankovich indicated that the results from the Fall 2013 semester will only be disseminated electronically as a PDF to department chairs first, and then faculty. Faculty will get a separate all college report in order to get a global view of the success of a particular course in relation to overall college scores.

3. The CEPP chair reported on a meeting with previous CEPP members David Peterson and Gordon Thompson. The two previous CEPP members were a part of the last GE curricular review and were consulted on their experiences in trying to bring a new General Education curriculum to the faculty. Primary in the feedback was the assertion that the consultation with faculty must happen at the local/departmental level, as well as, in larger venues. It was suggested that if the current CEPP decides to move forward and attempt to redesign the General Education requirements that we a) have more than one model to present to faculty, and b) give plenty of time for faculty to digest what could be an enormous change.

1. This led into a brief discussion of where we are in our review of the GE curriculum and how we intend to move forward in both assessing the current model and the review of alternate models. The CEPP agreed that there needs to be relatively uniform agreement on what is not working; on the role of the breadth requirements - even if it is working, is it doing what we hope for it to do? Does the current model deliver the level of inspiration, effectiveness, and aspiration we believe can be achieved by a Skidmore General Education requirement? If a new GE curriculum is suggested, then it must be more than marginally different from the current model to ensure faculty buy-in. The goal of meeting with all faculty in both large and small groups prompted several strategic suggestions, including:

* To reach all constituents we could have a series of mandatory meetings in May of 2014.
* Members of CEPP would visit individual departments throughout the spring semester.
* The Dean of the Faculty would provide support for the aforementioned events.

5. It was agreed that CEPP’s response to the IPPC White Paper prompt would continue over email.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Rubén Graciani