

CEPP Minutes 2/5/14

Present: Peter von Allmen, chair, Michael Arnush (scribe), Beau Breslin, Hope Casto, Sarah Goodwin, Rubén Graciani, Renée Schapiro, Charles Tetelman

1. Minutes from 1/29/14 approved with one minor typo.
2. CEPP briefly discussed, and raised no concerns with, a proposed Media Studies Minor, per a consultation from the Curriculum Committee.
3. CEPP approved the Academic Calendar for 2015-2016, and asked for clarification regarding the Jewish holidays.
4. Student Affairs meeting will occur on Thursday, 2/13, 1.30-3.30pm in the Dining Hall, Dhall. Charles and Hope will attend on behalf of CEPP.
5. Beau reported on a communication from the Mellon Foundation to President Glotzbach, inviting him to propose a grant request; Mellon, which has awarded the president two previous grants, is soliciting his and Skidmore's interest as a celebration of his 10th year as Skidmore's president. The grant would amount to \$250,000, and the deadline for a letter of interest is February 14th. Beau will share the draft of the letter with CEPP and ask for a response by Monday. The letter will propose a "Center for Teaching and Learning," for which many pieces are already in place, drawing upon the Faculty Network, the New Faculty Learning Community, pedagogy workshops. Sarah noted that, with the Middle States accreditation on the horizon, we should collect data on the Network, which has not yet undergone assessment.
6. CEPP devoted the remainder of the meeting to the subcommittee that will address the MALS program. CEPP discussed the composition of and selection process for the subcommittee. Hope conveyed to CEPP some comments from the MALS director, Jacquie Scoones, who noted that, whereas in the past, the MALS committee used to review study plans only, this past fall, the MALS committee has responded to the external review in a variety of ways – on admissions, on the methodology course, etc. Jacquie suggests to CEPP that the charge should take the subcommittee beyond a response to the review and that it would be most useful for it to consider MALS both at the college and in the broader context of higher education. Michael recommended that, since CEPP's purview is primarily academic, its subcommittee should prioritize academics before financial matters, and that the charge should reflect that.

Charge

CEPP's MALS Subcommittee will make recommendations to CEPP regarding the future direction of MALS programming. The subcommittee will investigate the role of MALS at the College in response to the self-study and external review, and propose alternative models for MALS' Program structure. Central questions to be addressed are: What are the parameters for academic and financial viability, for its role within the larger College mission, and its organization? What are the reasons for continuing or discontinuing MALS? If we recommend continuing MALS, what should be the expectations for the program's academic integrity and financial autonomy? What other contingencies might we include? The subcommittee will solicit broad student and faculty input.

Subcommittee Membership, to be established after consultation with FEC:

The Subcommittee will be composed of seven appointed members. One CEPP member will chair the subcommittee (Hope Casto); there will also be two faculty members with no MALS experience, two faculty from the MALS Committee, one faculty member with

MALS teaching experience not on the MALS committee, and the MALS Director (Jacquie Scoones, non-voting).

Proposed process:

CEPP will ask FEC to run a willingness-to-serve (WTS) for the two faculty with no MALS experience and the one faculty with MALS teaching experience; and will ask the MALS Committee chair (David Howson, Arts Administration) to appoint the two faculty members from the MALS Committee to the CEPP subcommittee. CEPP would then select the faculty from the WTS results.

Members of CEPP noted how useful it would be to include Beth Ruane, Emerging Technologies Librarian and member of the MALS Committee, given her expertise in the application of technologies to on-line and other forms of learning. Peter will share the drafted charge, subcommittee composition and process with FEC and request approval to run the WTSs.

7. Given the day's snowstorm, CEPP deferred discussion of curricular reform to the next meeting (2/12/14). Peter will speak briefly at the upcoming Faculty Meeting on 2/7/14, noting that the successful format for discussion at the Academic Summit in January provides a good model for future discussion among the faculty, and that CEPP will generate more models and reconvene the faculty in a similar kind of format.

Adjourned at 4.55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Arnush