

CEPP Minutes 4/16/14

Present: Peter von Allmen, chair, Beau Breslin, Rochelle Calhoun, Hope Casto, Amy Frappier, Sarah Goodwin, Rubén Graciani (scribe), Renée Schapiro, Charles Tetelman; Guests: Corey Freeman-Galant and David DeConno; Absent: Michael Arnush

1. We approved the minutes for 4/9/14.
2. Corey Freeman-Galant (Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Policy and Advising) and David DeConno (Registrar) joined the committee to offer feedback on the memo from the Athletic Council regarding class activities and exams scheduled outside of class times. CEPP inquired about the possibility of adding an index to the master schedule for classes with requirements such as trips, performances, and lectures that happen outside of class time. Both Dave and Corey indicated that the best place for such information was indeed the syllabus, and that if the class had trips etc. outside of class time that could not be re-scheduled, then that information should go in the course description. The CEPP Chair will communicate with the Curriculum Committee to remind faculty to update course descriptions to include this information.
3. Corey Freeman-Galant brought a request for input from the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) in regards to the waiver of an all-college requirement for students with documented disabilities. Though current catalog language indicates that we do not offer a waiver for any all-college requirements, the uniqueness of this case raises questions about the effectiveness of such strict language and the harm it may do to otherwise high achieving students. CAS would like to amend the limiting language to reflect the goals for reasonable accommodation, then reasonable substitution, and finally a reasonable process to waive a requirement. The CEPP agreed that there should be some flexibility for CAS on this issue if Skidmore is truly going to be an inclusive institution. The CEPP is confident in the ability of CAS to manage the issue.
4. Charles reported on the GE model conversation with Senate/SGA. The CEPP Chair will go to SGA/Senate on April 22nd to respond to Senate concerns and responses to the GE models previously shared with them. Questions included how the models reflected managing the differences between underprepared and over prepared students. There was consensus from the students in their concern that the models/curriculum must do a better job of preparing them for career and life after college. The idea of a themes based curriculum will also be shared with Senate on the 22nd.
5. The Board of Trustees is interested in the GE Model conversation and Beau Breslin proposed that the CEPP hold a round-table style discussion to update them on the work done thus far, as well as, to include them on the discussion of a theme based curriculum, including a discussion of what GE themes can be uniquely Skidmore.

6. The committee briefly discussed the responses to the first two round-tables. It was determined when CEPP members presented to the round-tables that there needed to be more clarity on the differences between the models.
7. We will talk about the CEPP retreat at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Rubén Graciani