

CEPP Minutes, April 23rd, 2014

In attendance: Peter von Allmen (Chair), Michael Arnush (scribe), Beau Breslin, Hope Casto, Amy Frappier, Sarah Goodwin, Rubén Graciani, Renée Schapiro, Charles Tetelman

1. We approved the minutes for April 16th.
2. Peter spoke with Shirley Smith, chair, Curriculum Committee, with regards to the scheduling of required activities outside normal class times. She agreed to take CEPP's suggestion that Peter and Shirley issue a joint email to faculty informing them that faculty teaching courses with such commitments need to submit a revised course description to the CC.
3. Peter and Charles met with SGA Senate re: the general education curricular models, where there was some support for the models they shared, but greater interest in a thematic approach than the actual models. Particular topics of interest: concerns about the numbers of required courses; whether QR2 and/or lab science courses should be double-counted; whether students should be required to complete physical education or dance courses; whether the sophomore seminars might be offered in both semesters; whether IGR is scalable. Students noted that it is not the current requirements *per se* that are problematic but how they approached by both the students and faculty, and the need for the faculty to articulate more clearly the connections between courses and the requirements.
4. Beau reminded CEPP that the Board of Trustees has extended an invitation to the committee to join a roundtable discussion on the general education curriculum, with a focus on the themes, on Thursday morning, May 15th.
5. CEPP devoted the remainder of the meeting to observations about the faculty roundtables, to preparing for the retreat and other issues related to the general education curriculum:
 - there was no strong sentiment about either model
 - the sophomore seminar received more support than the senior seminar, with some faculty concerned that the senior seminar could potentially supplant departmental capstone courses
 - faculty asked whether there are other models, perhaps constructed around historic eras, intellectual canons or debatable issues
 - faculty expressed a desire for a bolder and leaner curricular proposal, which will be the focus of the May 14th CEPP retreat. Related topics for the retreat will include possible themes and "big questions" for the curriculum; the likely timing for CEPP to complete its work on the curriculum (1-2 years?); whether the FYE is still achieving its goals; and the role(s) of the Goals for Student Learning and Development in the general education curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Arnush