**Committee on Educational Policy and Planning**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 7, 2016**

**In attendance:** Erica Bastress-Dukehart (Chair), Marta Brunner, Catherine Hill Henry Jaffe, Kelly Sheppard (scribe), Janet Sorensen, and Nicole Werner

1. Minutes of the 11/30/2016 meeting were approved.
2. The proposed 2018-2019 Academic Calendar from the Registrar’s Office was discussed. The Fall semester includes a study day in October in addition to the study days prior to Finals. In addition, no classes will be held on Yom Kippur. The proposed calendar was approved.
3. Out of the Friday Diversity Workshops, Erica proposed exploring the options to have a common unscheduled time each week during the academic year to provide time for meetings and discussions. Such blocks exist at other colleges. Potential options could include 2 hours on Mondays or an hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Challenges to creating such a block were discussed in particular getting more courses scheduled in the morning or evening. Expanding daycare hours was noted as being important to enable more faculty members to teach earlier and later in the day than the peak midday time slots. In addition, it was suggested rewarding Departments/Programs that offer courses outside the peak midday time slots (e.g., priority in room preferences) might create the incentive for more courses to be offered outside the core time slots. The Committee agreed to explore the possibility of an unscheduled block during the week. Dave DeConno will be invited to the next meeting to discuss.
4. Catherine proposed Skidmore be a sanctuary school in light of recent events as a show of support for our students, to send a message with other private institutions against proposed changes to the legal status of students who immigrated to the United States when they were minors, and to be prepared if those changes are enacted. It was noted Gender Studies, Student Senate, and CIGU were also discussing the matter. The Committee agreed it should be pursued. Erica will bring it to IPPC.
5. Erica reported that the Committee should be receiving soon a proposal to add an additional mode of inquiry requirement to the curricular proposal centered on the humanities.
6. A CEPP retreat prior to the spring semester was discussed. January 18th in the afternoon was noted as a promising possibility.
7. Wednesdays at 2:30 pm were tentatively decided as the CEPP meeting time for the spring semester.
8. Erica asked the Committee before the next CEPP meeting to review the Bridge Experience in the curricular proposal and notes from the faculty meeting in November on the section. The goal is to catalog needed changes and to plan to revise the section including identifying those with the relevant expertise to help the Committee in strengthening the Bridge Experience.

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Sheppard