CEPP meeting

Oct. 23, 2019

Meeting minutes

In Attendance: Steve Ives, Feryaz Ocakli, Andrew Bozio, Riley Filister, Pat Hilleren, Jina Mao, Peter von Allmen, Cerri Banks, Noa Mills, and Michael Orr.

Meeting began on 2:32 pm

1. Minutes approved after minor changes.

2. Beau Breslin talked to CEPP regarding IdeaLab, in his capacity as a member of the IdeaLab steering committee. He asked CEPP to consider having student ratings of IL courses be for developmental purposes only. The student ratings would not be considered as part of any file, whether for promotion, tenure, or any other personnel decision. Students would still fill rating forms for faculty development and improvement purposes, but only the faculty member teaching the course would have access to them. The purpose of this change is to encourage pedagogical risk taking. We had some discussions about how the IL courses would receive guidance and oversight, what options would tenure-track faculty who teach IL courses have in terms of sharing these evaluations with the ATC of their own choosing, and whether approving this exemption could lead to a slippery slope.

3. Peter von Allmen gave an update on institutional assessment of effectiveness. There is work on a new institutional assessment plan. Departments that are organized under “academic affairs,” but that are not academic departments, currently lack a clear institutional assessment process. Examples of these departments would include Department of Institutional Research and Center for Teaching and Learning. The new plan includes an effort to address this shortcoming, as well as others.

4. Academic calendar discussion: Dave DeConno responded to our query regarding instituting a week-long Thanksgiving vacation. He assured us that we do not have enough contact hours within the confines of our current academic calendar to accommodate such a vacation. He said Skidmore would either have to start earlier or end later in the Fall semester for such an idea to work. We had a discussion on potential options that could give us a Fall break: starting the semester earlier, or ending the semester later.

We will discuss the religious holiday policy language next week.

Meeting ended at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Feryaz Ocakli