

Committee of Committees Minutes December 2015

FEC: Denise Smith

Governance reform. Relations with the administration have been great. The principal challenge FEC faces is the terrible time crunch. FEC is trying to implement the new governance system in a way that is fair and sensitive to faculty preferences.

CAPT: Mehmet Odekon

The fall semester involves deliberations about tenure decisions. Since these deliberations are confidential, CAPT has nothing to report about this part of its work. CAPT reports a good working relationship with the administration. The administration has been willing to help CAPT as needed.

CEPP: April Bernard

April will be stepping down as chair in the spring. Kelly Sheppard will be her successor. It is unclear if he will serve for a full year or one and a half years. CEPP is continuing to meet with faculty to get a sense of the difficulties with its proposed general education curriculum. The final draft of its proposal will be discussed at the Academic Summit. The CEPP proposal is likely to be presented to the faculty and voted on next spring.

Relations with the administration: CEPP could not do its work if Beau were not on the committee, but structurally there is a bit of confusion. The problem is that it is difficult to be totally transparent with the faculty about the constraints CEPP must manage as it constructs a new curriculum.

Curriculum Committee: T.H. Reynolds

All is good. Curriculum Committee reviewed a number of proposals in the fall. There have been a few minor changes to majors and minors. Relations with the administration are great. Corey and Crystal both sit on the committee. No one knows the curriculum better than Corey does. He is hence a great resource. Dave DeConno and Sharon Clemmey are also on the committee. They provide the nuts and bolts that are needed to put curricular changes into action. They are of great value to the committee.

CAS: Eric Morser (filling in for David Cohen).

CAS has a really good relationship with the administration, especially with Dave DeConno, Corey Freeman-Gallant, and others. They meet weekly to deal with student petitions, late withdrawals, etc. They are currently looking into a number of important initiatives—most significantly grade inflation on campus. It can be demonstrated over time that grades are going up pretty significantly. They are working with Corey to decide what to do with one and

two credit courses that typically have very high grades. One possibility is to substitute letter grades in these cases with S/U grades. CAS is also discussing opportunities for Skidmore employees to complete degrees part time This is not allowed now, and these employees can no longer go into University Without Walls as they had been directed in years past.)

IPPC: Tim Harper

IPPC addressed a number of issues this fall, including the Strategic Plan, the Middle States Report, the college's budget, issues of diversity and inclusion, health care and retirement plan changes, and the establishment of a new CDO position. Faculty on IPPC are struggling with two issues: (1) What is their role on IPPC? and (2) Is the information the faculty receives on IPPC confidential? There is no venue, other than the minutes, to communicate to the faculty after an IPPC meeting. The confidentiality requirement can, in short, create a blind spot.

IPPC is also considering whether there should be some kind of communication with the faculty during the summer about important choices the administration makes during that season?

Faculty on IPPC have also heard concerns about the level of work required to attend to both the Strategic Plan and the Middle States Report. It may be unavoidable, but it is a point of faculty concern.

CIGU (a subcommittee of IPPC): Cindy Evans

CIGU has been revising recommendations included in the Middle States Report and prioritizing short and long-term goals. CIGU has been involved in student campus activism, especially national student demands by the students of color (POCU). They will be coming back to this as POCU has asked for a meeting with CIGU in the spring to address their concerns. CIGU has no issues with the administration, and in fact a number of administrators are on the subcommittee. As for the committee's concerns, their biggest issue is that CIGU makes recommendations without any authority to implement them/oversee them and is then criticized for those recommendations.

Athletic Council: Mark Huibregtse

The Athletic Council has not had a large amount of business the last couple of years. Athletic Council each year reviews a cohort of physical activity instructors. It is currently reviewing the riding instructors. Athletic Council also each year reviews the motions going to the NCAA national meeting. In the spring, Athletic Council selects a winner of the Scholar Athlete award. Athletic Council also has purview over the 5-year self-study process required by the NCAA.

Corey has addressed Athletic Council about how best to manage one-credit courses. Athletic and physical activity instructors are considering mandating the S/U grading option for these courses. This proposal dovetails

with the proposal by student representatives to allow a certain amount of academic credit for intercollegiate sports participation. That recommendation is pending.

Relations with the administration have been excellent. Gail Cummings-Danson's role as AD has largely been taken over by Megan Buchanan.

FDC: Greg Pfitzer

As Greg notes, they give money away! FDC has good relations with the administration. Crystal Moore sits on the committee and is very helpful. She works with Bill Tomlinson to deal with the budget so when FDC gets spring round grant requests they know who has received grant money in the past.