

Committee of Committee Reports—Fall 2016

FEC: Denise Smith

FEC's focus has been on implementing the governance reform. This second year of the new system has seen more faculty folded into the system. FEC realizes that it now needs to circle back to the faculty to make sure that they are conversant with the system's key properties.

FEC has been grappling with the question of how to achieve gender balance on and improve the diversity of ballots. FEC cannot manufacture balanced or diverse ballots because the system voted in by the faculty privileges faculty choice. FEC will be coming to the faculty in the spring for ideas on how to improve its ballot-building.

FEC has also heard from faculty who are concerned about the short time they have to review ballots before they are obliged to vote. FEC is considering addressing these concerns by extending the voting period. This would not challenge the underpinnings of the system.

FEC reported a good working relationship with the administration.

IPPC: Tim Harper

IPPC has been doing a lot of budget work, including work on the CIS. Tim reports that there has been some tension between the financial/budget people on IPPC since there are many decisions that need to be made regarding the budget for the next 2—3 years. In addition IPPC has had some issues of balancing different priorities, including housing issues on campus. These issues were described by Tim as being small decisions leading up to major decisions at some point in time. He commented further about budget tensions and issues arising from different interest groups, and described this as an intrinsically difficult position for the faculty and administration.

IPPC does note that interactions with the administration, especially Joshua Woodfork, Mike West and the President have been excellent with very good communication. The faculty on IPPC would like to be able to pass along more information to the faculty so they are better represented, but the President was not in agreement.

CAPT: Pat Fehling

CAPT is trying to prepare for particularly large tenure cohorts in the coming years. It tried this past term to alter the CAPT calendar to give it adequate time to review these cohorts. This effort, however, met with significant resistance from the faculty. CAPT just had an open forum on this question, which it thought was successful. CAPT is planning no changes to the CAPT calendar for next year, but it understands that there will need to be changes made for the following years.

CAPT's interaction with the administration have been great. Beau's principle is always to support the faculty.

CAPT made a change to its operating code last year that looked subtle but was actually quite significant. In the past, the administration has presented its thoughts about cases with no feedback from CAPT. The operating code now allows for give and take between CAPT and the administration. The administration would also like to make the ADOF a non-voting member of CAPT. This change would eliminate one extra meeting. CAPT has pushed back on this proposal by noting that it is structurally problematic.

CEPP: Erica Bastress-Dukehart

Erica reports a tumultuous semester for CEPP. CEPP is currently stepping back and regrouping after the November 4th faculty meeting. CEPP is still working on curricular change proposals but are not getting good responses from the different groups and departments on campus. CEPP has scheduled a retreat to discuss curricular change in January. Erica notes that there is significant territoriality among the divisions of the college and, she feels, the process was hurt badly by the November meeting.

Erica does report that the CEPP is a good group that works well together and CEPP has added to its agenda, including work with CC on a certification program and with the DoF/VPAA on an Africana Studies proposal. CEPP plans on having a series of conversations about the Africana Studies program this spring since CEPP believes it is important to move this initiative forward. CEPP is also working with the registrar to find a common hour with nothing scheduled, to serve as a time for meetings to take place.

CEPP reports a good working relationship with the administration and notes that administration members sit on CEPP. CEPP believes it must be transparent about the proposed curricular changes since there has been so much push back from all the divisions of the college. CEPP's primary goal is to bring a proposal from a different perspective/attitude back to the faculty soon, since it is aware that it cannot push a program on the faculty if it is not wanted and supported. Where the proposal stands at this point in time is uncertain.

Curriculum Committee: Larry Jorgensen

It has been a smooth semester for Curriculum Committee. The Registrar has implemented Curriculog to expedite the processing and review of proposals. There have been a few wrinkles in the implementation but Curriculog has thus far improved the process.

Curriculum Committee's relationship with the administration has been good.

Curriculum Committee is currently considering how to address three proposals to establish certificate programs at Skidmore. *The Faculty Handbook* addresses the establishment of majors and minors but is silent on the establishment of certificate programs. Which kinds of certificate programs are right for Skidmore and which are not? Thin and technical programs, for example, may not be right for the college

Curriculum Committee will be consulting with CEPP on this issue. This consultation may take place via a joint subcommittee.

CAFR: Joshua Ness:

Josh notes that the nature of CAFR work is confidential. There are some ongoing issues to be addressed in the spring semester. Recognizing that “satisfying closures” in the type of work that CAFR does are rare, overall, things are fine.

One potential emerging issue (not a CAFR case) involves meetings with the Board of Trustees by the chair of CAFR. In the most recent meeting with the board, the provided time was brief and some members of the administration were present during the conversation. Because CAFR cases can involve members of the administration, and formal cases conclude with judgments by the College President with recommendations from CAFR, the discussion between CAFR and the Board has the potential to be influenced by the composition of the room. The current CAFR will inquire with previous CAFR chairs regarding these issues (asking whether they are new or perceived to be problematic), and will communicate what they learn to FEC.

FDC: Rachael Roe-Dale

FDC has been conducting its normal business of reading applications for various opportunities. It has changed its practices around the processing of summer research applications. Since it is always a dynamic process when one makes such a change, FDC will be monitoring the faculty’s response to it.

FDC has a regular working relationship with the Dean’s Office since Crystal sits on FDC. It is good to have her institutional perspective. It is, however, a little ambiguous about who grants the awards because FDC makes a recommendation but the funding is through the Dean’s Office.

CIGU: Cindy Evans

CIGU is focusing its efforts on a plan for a Social Justice Center on campus. CIGU is upbeat about accomplishing this task and is moving forward on recommendations made last year and on items to incorporate into the Strategic Plan. CIGU reports a sense of urgency for the completion of this Center now due to the campus climate.

CIGU reports that it has the full support of the Administration. A consultant architect has been brought in and concrete progress has been made on the Social Justice Center. No space commitment has been given by the administration yet. Since the communications department is moving in April that space may be available, so CIGU has been told to move ahead for now. CIGU will hold an open forum on this plan and will move forward on other recommendations. The DOF/VPAA has asked CIGU for input on the Africana Studies program.

Members of the administration and college staff serve on CIGU with faculty members so relations with the administration are good.