

Committee of Committees

Minutes, 12 December 2017

Greg Gerbi (Chair), Juan Navea (FEC, Scribe), Gordon Thompson (FEC), Marketa Wolfe (FEC, Scribe), Erica Bastress-Dukehart (CEPP), Grace Burton (IPPC and TRB), Xiaoshuo Hou (CC), Joshua Ness (CAFR), Flip Phillips (FDC), T.H. Reynolds (CEPP), Christine Kopec (FAB), Hope Casto (CAS).

1. Greg Gerbi welcomed the committee chairs.
2. Greg Gerbi for the Faculty Executive Committee
 - a. FEC has been working on appointments to faculty governance committees.
 - b. Elections will be held after CAPT reconfiguration is decided.
 - c. FEC has interacted with the administration through CAPT reconfiguration and service enforcement.
 - d. It was asserted that faculty governance decisions should not involve the DoF and that exemption requests should be handled by FEC.
 - Greg Gerbi observed that DoF can be important in the enforcement of service requirements.
 - Greg Gerbi reminded the CoC that many of our overwork problems are related to the transition to the new governance model and that the faculty approved the current system. Faculty can bring a motion to have FEC make exemption decisions without DoF, and this year FEC is considering bringing such a motion.
 - e. It was pointed out that some faculty are serving on two or more committees.
 - GG reminded the CoC that some committees are not considered governance and thus do not count toward the required governance service.
 - Some of these committees that are not a part of faculty governance require a level of expertise, however.
 - f. Some chairs of committees feel that there is a culture problem at Skidmore College in which faculty do not value service. One person remarked that our current mandated governance service is an administrative solution to a culture problem.
 - Some chairs expressed concerned that junior faculty have little expectation for service. This fails to prepare them to serve after

they become Associate Professors and it sends a message that we do not value service as an integral part of our job.

- The devaluation of the work of some committees is affecting the service climate.
- Course releases can indicate how the institution values time. Helios credits for service are another possible option.
- Increasing the amount that service counts for promotion is likely also to improve the climate around service.

g. Greg Gerbi commented on FEC having a good relation with the administration and that the administration comes to FEC for advice.

3. Joshua Ness for the Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights

a. Nothing to share.

4. T.H. Reynolds for the Athletic Council (AC)

a. The committee work does not require interaction with the administration (although the committee has administrators as members).

b. The AC is trying to formalize the connection between faculty and sport teams.

c. The AC is currently discussing granting credits for intercollegiate athletics.

5. Flip Phillips for the Faculty Development Committee (FDC)

a. The Associate Dean and the Director of Office of Sponsored Research are a part of the committee; the FDC has been meeting with the Associate Dean replacement. The relationship is good.

b. The FDC's challenge is the budget constraint. There is no transparency on how the finances are determined; however, the FDC realizes the difficulties with making this more transparent.

6. Xiaoshuo Hou for the Curriculum Committee (CC)

a. Most of the tasks have been routine. The difficulties are related to the Idea Lab courses, especially for condensed courses that are 3-credit courses in just a few weeks.

b. Pop-up courses are another difficult category that the CC has been discussing with multiple committees.

c. The CC has been working well with the administration. The CC has been meeting with Sarah Sweeney and the DoF who lead the Idea Lab Steering Committee.

7. Christine Kopec for the Faculty Advisory Board (FAB)

- a. Changes in the role of FAB: in addition to the responsibilities listed in the *Faculty Handbook*, FAB is handling sexual misconduct by students. There are elected faculty who have found out about this role after being elected.
 - b. FAB believes that having faculty and staff is essential in the sexual misconduct cases.
 - c. FAB is in discussions with FEC and administrators to address how this additional responsibility of sexual misconduct cases should be handled, including whether it should be separated from FAB.
8. Erica Bastress-Dukehart for the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP)
 - a. CEPP is in a good place, working with several faculty on subcommittees.
 - b. The curriculum is ahead of schedule and should be done by May 2018.
 - c. CEPP is preparing fora to discuss the new curriculum.
 - d. This is the year to reevaluate student evaluation forms. When the faculty approved the student evaluations, only the last three questions were meant to be shared with Department Chairs and the DoF. Yet, all questions have been shared.
9. Hope Casto for the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS)
 - a. CAS has been discussing possible changes to the withdraw policy for travel seminars.
 - b. CAS reports an increase in appeals from students due to mental health issues. Some of these appeals involve late withdrawals (including withdrawals from the College). CAS is working on clearer criteria for these cases.