

CEPP Meeting, December 16, 2003

Present: M. Arnush (scribe in lieu of PR), M. Fair, H. Foley, F. Gonzalez, C. Joseph, N. Merrill, P. Oles, R. Rodriguez, P. Rubio (scribe at the next CEPP meeting), G. Thompson (chair)

1. Minutes of 12/5 approved.
2. Retreat: 1/30. Time and place TBA.
3. AAC&U: RR, MA, GT, CJ and Associate Dean Sarah Goodwin are attending the January meetings to work through the ViSta in the context of campus politics via a case study. Topic: "How do you move forward with curriculum change at a time of fiscal constraints?"
4. Spring agenda:
 - ! CEPP has promised to bring the ViSta to the faculty on 2/6; GT will revise over break, but CEPP will also consider the two fall semester subcommittee reports at the January retreat
 - ! Honors, from Jon Ramsey and Sarah Goodwin, to be circulated via email over the winter break
 - ! Affiliation with Schenectady County Community College: potential transfer students
 - ! John Brueggeman and Jeff Segrave have developed a strategy for the relationship between the curriculum and athletic program that John will share with CEPP
 - ! IA major: will not go to CEPP but the Curriculum Committee
5. Subcommittees for S'04:
 - ! What is the purpose of subcommittees: Is it the same as the first two subcommittees - to provide feedback on specific issues of implementation in the ViSta - or does it get at some of the fundamental values and principles in less obvious ways? Should we be explicit in the charge, or give less direction here than in the F'03 subcommittees? Will we be straitjacketing CEPP by crafting subcommittees that accommodate colleagues with specific agendas? Are we providing an opportunity to avoid disenfranchising faculty and thus give the faculty

may know how to swim, but without water, the ability resides only in the abstract.

"The question of the relationship between critical thinking and content is not abstract. Every discipline wrestles with balancing the task of training students how to grapple with the intellectual problems that confront them, while at the same time familiarizing them with the terminology, the history and the concepts of their subject. Creative thought matters; but we only know what a student is thinking through their work with a specific subject matter.

"How well are our core requirements, majors and courses balancing these tasks? Are our students learning how to think independently and creatively? Are they sufficiently conversant with the broad subject matter of their discipline(s)?

"The subcommittee will consist of ...

1. Three faculty members, one of whom will be a member of the CEPP and will chair.
2. One representative of the administration (Ray Rodrigues).
3. One student representative.
4. The subcommittee will confer with different

success of a first-year course(s) will depend upon the willingness of the faculty to deliver it. A discussion ensued about the type(s) of first-year seminars that the faculty will be willing to offer (newly designed courses, pre-existing courses including especially those in the LS2 curriculum, etc.). The goal of the seminar is to excite and challenge first-year students with exploration of novel ideas, and for faculty to design courses that speak to that engagement.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Arnush