

Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)**September 8, 2015**

In attendance: Faculty: David Hall, chair; Alexander George; Caroline Goutte; Klára Móricz; Sean Redding. Catherine Epstein, dean. Students: Samuel Keaser '16, Rashid Kosber '17; Steven Ryu '16. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Associate Dean of Admission and Researcher for Academic Projects.

David Hall, Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), called to order the CEP meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Physics and Astronomy Meeting Room (Merrill Science Center 222). David began by welcoming new and returning members to the committee. He briefly shared the agenda for the year and said he hoped the committee would continue to operate by consensus.

Catherine shared several events that had occurred over the summer, including the resignation of the new astronomer, Daryl Haggard and Nicholas Cowan, and a decision by newly hired Melvin Rogers that he would not join the college, reversing his earlier decision. Catherine said that, following recent precedent, the decision by Professor Haggard to leave during her first year qualified the search as “failed,” and as a result she had authorized a new search for an astronomer this year. She also mentioned that she has been inquiring among her peers about the FTE process at other institutions and will share her findings with the committee before the FTE process begins this fall.

Course proposals

David mentioned that the registrar has received a request to change a seminar from three to two hours in length. The committee felt that such a change would be inappropriate at this juncture, since the course had already been approved by the faculty as a three-hour course. Changes require approval through the formal process. The committee also noted that two hours would not adequately meet the expectations of the regional accrediting association and would not conform to the norms of the college.

The committee next turned its attention to the letter inviting new course proposals or revisions to standing courses for the spring semester. Klára thought it might be helpful for the letter to advise faculty to consider whether physical limitations (room size or equipment) will provide a constraint on the number of students that can be accommodated. The committee also agreed that individual faculty members should attempt to balance their enrollments in different courses over the course of the year, if possible. The letter was revised to clarify the expectations around enrollment caps and the length of courses. The committee asked for a list of courses that currently meet for less than the required 150 minutes.

FTE requests

The committee next turned its attention to the letter inviting proposals for new and replacement FTEs. David noted that last year the committee had tried to ignore the distinction between new and replacement positions as a way to provide a mechanism for reallocating resources that would not bind the committee to existing faculty lines. The committee, after some discussion, agreed that it would be helpful to be liberated from the expectation that retiring faculty will be automatically replaced. By not

distinguishing between new and replacement FTE requests, the committee hoped it would place a special expectation that each requesting department explain the need for every requested position and ensure that departments would not take for granted that retiring faculty will be replaced. The committee agreed that there are nevertheless certain priorities that the committee will weigh when viewing requests, including (but not limited to) growth in departmental enrollments, emerging disciplinary fields of special importance, the need to maintain foundational courses, and the need to sustain the core of the major or program. Nancy said she would draft a possible letter for the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.