

**Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)****December 15, 2015**

**In attendance: Faculty: David S. Hall, chair; Alexander George; Caroline Goutte; Klára Móricz; Sean Redding. Catherine Epstein, dean. Students: Samuel Keaser '16, Rashid (Chico) 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) and the committee approved the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2015.

**FTE requests**

David welcomed Catherine Sanderson to the committee for the conversation about FTE requests. He then asked the committee to consider the criteria that would be used in ranking requests this year. The committee agreed to focus on the priorities listed in the letter sent to Chairs soliciting the requests. These included: whether the position is envisioned as a replacement or an expansion to the department, areas of expertise (whether these are new directions or old), enrollment demands (including the ability to serve as advisors for student theses), college-wide concerns (ability to participate in the first-year seminar program, the college's need for a diverse faculty, interdisciplinary interests, and the provision of support for a diverse student body), long-range plans, advice from an external review committee, evidence that the department has given careful thought to the shape of the curriculum (including the different constituencies that the department serves and how the shape of the major serves those different constituencies), the outcome of previous requests, and whether a department can fulfill its goals in its current state and provide adequate support for a diverse student body. Alex suggested next year's letter also might include asking departments to provide comparisons with similar programs at peer institutions.

With regard to replacements versus expansion positions, Sean and Klára both noted that expanding some departments will inevitably result in shrinking others, and Caroline added that there is nothing about being a replacement alone that should guarantee that the FTE will be granted; departments need to make a solid case for why a replacement is needed. Alex agreed, saying the curriculum has to be the engine that determines the need for the FTE.

The committee then discussed its guidelines and procedures and agreed that evidence will be taken solely from the request, from other official documents and official sources, and from clarifications that the chair has sought. Requests will not be discussed outside the committee. At committee meetings, all members will identify if they have a conflict of interest. Those with requests before the committee will not vote on those requests and will only speak about those requests in response to factual questions from the committee. Requests will be evaluated individually, discussed as a group, and ranked individually. Recommendations will be made after the committee members' rankings have been synthesized, discussed, and finalized by consensus. The discussions will be begin at the first meeting on January 29, 2016. Catherine S. left the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and the committee proceeded with the remainder of its agenda.

**Proposed changes to statistics major**

David then turned to the letter from the Math and Statistics department informing the CEP of changes to the statistics major. Those changes will alter the computer science requirement, add an elective, remove a requirement, and change the placement policy. The committee agreed that, in general, departments should be able to determine their own curriculum. David noted the increase in the number of courses required to complete the major. After a quick survey of the majors represented directly on the committee, he said that he thought that major requirements might be something to discuss more generally. Klára noted that the CEP had cautioned the department when the major was created that the ease with which a student could complete a double major with math might prove problematic.

**Other business**

Caroline said that she had found the Teaching Resource Ratios data very useful for CEP deliberations, and she wondered whether that analysis would be updated as it predated the birth of the ES Department and other campus changes. If it was updated, she pointed out the need to incorporate numbers of majors in programs, and the faculty who constitute those programs; she felt it important to account for departmental resources that support programs as a way to sustain programs and avoid the need for new departments. She wanted the committee to be aware of that issue as she departed. David and other committee members then thanked her for her service on the committee.

The committee agreed to meet next in the Kennick Room in Cooper House at 8:30 a.m. on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.