

Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)

February 12, 2016

In attendance: Faculty: David S. Hall, chair; Alexander George; Klára Móricz; Sean Redding; Catherine Sanderson. 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 8:30 a.m. in the Kennick Room in Cooper House. He announced that the committee would be receiving a target-of-opportunity request that will require expedited action. He then reviewed the rules that will govern the committee's review of this request. The committee approved minutes from the meeting of February 5, 2016.

Early participation in graduation

David next shared a note from the class deans asking for further clarification of the rules under which students might be permitted to participate in graduation exercises if they are within one semester of having completed all of the requirements. Dean McGeoch has asked how to apply the new rule if an applicant for early participation has been disciplined for relatively minor violations, noting that students can be disciplined for a range of infractions from underage drinking and setting off a fire extinguisher to academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and Title IX violations. David said he thought the committee's intention had been to limit the early participation to students who have never been suspended for disciplinary violations. The committee had not meant to penalize minor disciplinary violations that had not resulted in suspension from campus. The committee agreed with him.

David said Lyle has also asked whether students who have already "served their time" should be further penalized by not being allowed to participate in early graduation exercises. Committee members felt that any student whose disciplinary violations had resulted in a required suspension—even if it occurred several years ago—should be ineligible for the early participation. Sean suggested sending a memo with this understanding to the deans as a way to provide some guidance to the faculty committee that will have discretionary power over these decisions. David said he would do that. If the class deans provide feedback after a year of applications, the committee could propose modifying the policy on the basis of their experience. David will inform the class deans that the committee intended that no student dismissed for "disciplinary reasons that resulted in a required suspension," regardless of the timing of that suspension, should be allowed to participate early in graduation exercises. Students whose infractions did not result in suspension could still qualify for early participation, at the discretion of the faculty committee.

Transcript policy

David informed the committee that the policy governing faculty members' access to their students' transcripts will return to the committee, most likely with a recommendation that faculty be given access to the courses taken by their students, but not to the students' grades.

College calendar

David next reported that the College Council has discussed the calendar and is nearly ready to submit a proposed calendar to the committee. Klára said members of the council had met with the Music department. Catherine E. said the calendar has to be ready for the March 1st faculty meeting; she asked that the committee discuss the calendar at its next meeting so the Committee of Six will be able to discuss it and forward it to the faculty. If the proposed revision is not passed by the faculty, the standard calendar will be enacted for the next academic year.

FTEs, continued

The committee then returned to its discussion of FTE requests.

History

The History department has requested a position in pre-modern European History, as a replacement for Margaret Hunt and Teresa Shawcross, both of whom have left the college. The committee discussed the request.

LJST

The Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought department has requested a replacement for Nasser Hussain in the field of cross-cultural, global and/or post-colonial legality. The committee discussed this request.

Math

The Math department has requested an open search to replace Dan Velleman who has now taught his final courses at the college. The committee discussed this request.

Philosophy

The Philosophy department has requested a replacement in early modern philosophy for Jonathan Vogel who has just begun phased retirement.

Psychology

The Psychology department has requested a new position in human neuroscience, to be shared between the Psychology department and the Neuroscience program.

Catherine E. noted that the college has grown in recent years. The committee asked where that growth had occurred. Had it been primarily in the sciences? Nancy said that since 2007-8, expansion positions have been added broadly across the college: 2007-8: Spanish (contemporary Spanish culture); 2008-9: Economics (environmental economist); Math and Statistics (environmental statistics); Math and Statistics (pure math); History (environmental historian), Music (jazz and popular music); Geology (sedimentary geology); Chemistry (biochemist); Biology (molecular neurobiologist); 2009-10: Biology (neurophysiology); 2010-11: SWAGS (gender and media studies in the global south); 2011-12:

Anthropology (.25, South American archaeologist); Economics (development economics); Psychology (clinical psychologist); 2012-13: History/ASLC (South Asian history); Political Science (American politics); Sociology (.5 social institutions); Theater and Dance (.5 dance); 2013-14: Anthropology and Sociology (E. Asia anthropologist); Black Studies (African American philosophy); Math and Statistics (statistics); Math and Statistics (applied math); Music (.5 music history and theory); 2014-15: Art and History of Art (film and video artist); Computer Science (distributed systems); Economics (behavioral economics); Math and Statistics (pure math); 2015-16: Classics (Latinist); Physics (astronomer); Philosophy (social and political philosophy); 2016-17: Art and History of Art (.5, contemporary art).

While reassured that curricular growth has occurred broadly across the divisions of the college, David thought it would be healthy for some committee to consider the bigger questions of how the college should grow. At the moment the committee is only able to evaluate broader trends in faculty representation across the disciplines on a year-to-year, FTE by FTE basis. The flavor of the committee's work felt to him more like emergency room care rather than preventative medicine. Catherine E. said the Curriculum Committee is not examining fields of study as part of its curricular review and that the CEP was the appropriate place for such a conversation. David then said he thought the committee should take the time to think about how the curriculum should be represented but that should occur independently of the FTE process. Alex agreed that the committee should find an opportunity to step back and look at the larger shifts in the curricular topography.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.