

Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)

February 26, 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 meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Kennick Room in Cooper House. The committee approved minutes from the meeting of February 19, 2016.

New courses

The committee approved the remaining pending courses and asked that the deadline for courses be observed more strictly. Late courses will be eligible for "pending faculty approval" status in the future and will not have their approval expedited for faculty meeting approval.

Chair's announcements

David reviewed some of the changes to the course evaluation system, including the possibility that faculty will be able to remove lab sections and section meetings from the list of courses for evaluation so that students will not get multiple requests to evaluate the same course. He said the calendar will return to the committee for further discussion. The draft statement of intellectual freedom will also return. FTE committee rankings will be due next week.

Dean's announcements

Catherine E. said she plans to provide more information at the upcoming faculty meeting about a Mellon grant that the college has received and will also announce that Amherst is about to enter the next ten-year reaccreditation process with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The process will be spearheaded by Associate Dean Tobin and supported by a faculty committee and an administrative steering committee. She also mentioned that the college has had received a no-cost extension of its Mellon grant for small tutorials which allows a department to receive funds to replace a faculty member teaching a small Mellon tutorial or alternatively allows the professor teaching the tutorial to teach it as an overload and receive an additional stipend.

Continuing with her announcements, she informed the committee that she is working on folding the architectural studies program into the Department of Art and History of Art. The program will have a great deal of autonomy within the larger program but it has been functioning as a program without personnel, supported by two shared FTEs (amounting to .75 FTE); both have appointments that are primarily at Hampshire. There may be some long term consequences that have not yet been resolved, including whether the program could be chaired by someone from ARAH. There is both excitement and resistance to this idea, and it raises governance issues. Catherine E. suggested the CEP may want to schedule a future conversation about this issue.

Returning to the Mellon tutorials, David noted that it is not typical to pay faculty for teaching an overload, and that he hoped there could be further discussion about this issue. Catherine E. agreed and said she would like to change this. Alex said he would also like to discuss the courses that involve extended trips—including trips to England and Costa Rica—and, in particular, to discuss both how these are funded and a more equitable process for the faculty at large to apply for such opportunities. Catherine E. said the college has to raise the money first, and then she would be happy to discuss a more equitable process that would allow faculty to apply for the funds.

Target-of-opportunity request (TO) from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

David next asked the committee to turn to the second request from Math and Statistics to make a target-of-opportunity (TO) appointment.

FTE requests

Religion

The Religion department has requested a position on Religion in the Americas, as a replacement for David Wills, who is in his second year of phased retirement. The committee discussed the request.

Russian

The Department of Russian has requested a position in language and literature as a replacement for Stanley Rabinowitz who has entered phased retirement. The committee discussed this request.

Spanish

The Spanish department has requested a new FTE which would be a senior hire in applied linguistics with a focus on Spanish language acquisition and instruction. The committee discussed the request.

Theater and Dance

The Department of Theater and Dance has requested an FTE in acting and performance as a replacement for Peter Lobdell, preferably someone who combines artistic work in acting and directing with scholarship in an underrepresented area, such as Black or Latino/a studies, diverse American performance history, and or no-European global performance studies. Although Peter was a Senior Resident Artist, he replaced someone who held an FTE. The committee discussed the request. David asked committee members to rank the requests prior to the next meeting in accordance with guidelines that he said he will send to committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.