

Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee
MINUTES
September 26, 1996

Present: Debra Anderson, Jolene Barjasteh, Becky Benedict, David Dahl, Mark Etzell, Chris Grasso, Dana Gross, Peter Hamlin, David Lesniaski, Bob Nichols, John Poling, Mary Titus

Visiting: Gary Deason, Rebecca Judge, Steve McKelvey, John Lygre

Jolene Barjasteh called the meeting to order. Minutes from the September 12, 1996 meeting were approved as amended.

Environmental Studies Proposal: Gary Deason introduced the Superior Studies program for College Environmental Study at the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. This program includes cognitive, experiential, and practical elements of environmental learning. Opportunities for participation in this study program will be proposed for a January Interim and for Summer School (both summer school sessions with an optional interim between sessions). At some future date Environmental Studies may also consider proposing the Superior Studies program as a semester program. The program will be staffed primarily by St. Olaf faculty, from any department or program, who will teach courses that will count toward an Environmental Studies concentration. Faculty will be encouraged to develop courses which will also count for one or more of the graduation requirements of the core curriculum. Wolf Ridge staff will provide support services for the program. Courses will be offered primarily in the mornings, at least during the proposed summer program. In the afternoons most students will participate in internships or part-time jobs at Wolf Ridge, Tettegouche State Park, Crosby-Manitou State Park, Round River Sustainable Agriculture Farm, or other applicable programs. The program is being planned to serve 50 summer students and 25 interim students. A grant to cover the initial funding of the program has been submitted to the Blandin Foundation, although the program could move ahead without this funding. A decision about the grant request is anticipated by 1/5/97. The program developers have planned to have the program be self-supporting within three years. The goal is to keep the cost to summer students the same as an on-campus program.

Becky Judge gave a description of the course she plans to offer on Environmental Regulation, and John Lygre briefly discussed the internships that have already been arranged. One committee member asked about academic resources, and Deason replied that funds for library resources have been included in the grant proposal. The Environmental Learning Center is also connected to the Internet, so many materials will be available to students on-line. CEPC thanked the visitors for bringing this information to the committee.

New Committee Member: Barjasteh introduced Dana Gross, newly elected as representative to CEPC from the Behavioral Sciences division.

Curriculum Coordinating Committee: Anderson gave a report on the September 10th meeting of the Curriculum Coordinating Committee, which is made up of Barjasteh, Anderson, Phyllis Larson (Chair of International and Domestic Off-Campus Studies Committee) and Jo Beld (Convener of the General Education Committee). The committee discussed routing of course

proposals and Beld prepared a packet for all department chairs on behalf of the committee which explains the course proposal process. All new course proposals should be sent to Susan Canon, and she will distribute them to the appropriate committees. In future meetings the committee will be discussing a possible restructuring of the three participating committees.

Report on Curricular Oversight: The committee continued its discussion of the Report on Curricular Oversight from Richard Brown. A committee member questioned the CEPC's jurisdiction over program review, since there is a Program Review Committee (PRC). Barjasteh noted that that committee has not met for some time, and she didn't know its current status. Canon volunteered to bring that information to the next meeting. The committee felt that Brown's recommendations could not be implemented as written, as there are too many unknowns about committee restructuring, funding, and so on. Barjasteh pointed out that although Dean Pence has already seen the report, he asked the committee to make some recommendations about it.

Nichols moved that pages 1-3 and the top of page 4 of the report, leaving out the recommendations, be sent to Dean Pence to share with the Review & Planning Committee as an information document. The motion failed.

Subcommittees Update: Barjasteh reported that the Week One subcommittee met once and will not be meeting on a regular basis this year. She also reported that the Foreign Language subcommittee has met; additional information will be coming to CEPC.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary: Rebecca Benedict

Recorder: Susan Canon

Next meeting: Thursday, October 24, 1996