

CEPC MINUTES 10-1-98

Attending: Grasso, Lesniaski, Kermott (chair), Daniels, Pence, Wilson, Withers (student), Reyerson (student), Lennox

Guests: Myron Solid, Mark Schelske, Joshua Graber (student)

Call to order: 3:20

1. Minutes for Sept. 17, 1998 meeting APPROVED.

2. Special Studies Subcommittee, Adrienne Hacker Daniels, chair.

The following interim course proposals were APPROVED by CEPC:

- SO/ AN 142, MUSEUMS IN AMERICA
- NURSING 110, NUTRITION AND WELLNESS
- RELIGION 247, THE CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC REVIVAL
- RELIGION 218, POLITICAL AND LIBERATION THEOLOGY
- ID 243, ETHICS IN NARRATIVE

3. Myron Solid, head of the Assessment Task Force, and Dean Pence, who his Sept. 23, 1998 memo, led a conversation on assessment. They described the assessment of student, faculty, and program performance as being about collecting information for the sake of improving quality. The Office of Educational and Institutional research has been divided into two parts: institutional research, headed by James Talon, and program assessment (the director of this second office has not yet been named). Jim Talon is establishing a relationship with RPC, and Myron Solid, as chair of the Task Force, will report to CEPC until the Director of Educational Research and Assessment takes over. Members discussed the need to co-ordinate with RPC and the best way that the lines of communication between CEPC and the Task Force (and later the Director) could be kept open. CEPC decided that the Task Force chair/ Director will report to the chair of CEPC, who will bring assessment matters to the full committee as he or she sees fit.

- CEPC members raised questions about funding these assessment efforts and the faculty time they entail; about the relationship between CEPC and GEC, which needs to be clarified or redefined; and about the use of the gold form as an assessment tool.
- Dean Pence and Myron Solid assured CEPC that the committee was not being asked to micro-manage assessment. Assessment, they said, belongs in the faculty domain. The results of assessment will certainly be of great interest to CEPC, as they pertain to curricular quality. The results of assessment must be brought to CEPC and shared publically in some other way.

4. Education Subcommittee (Naurine Lennox and Mark Schelske reporting).

- The subcommittee has been very active and soon will be even more active as it brings sets of courses that fulfill requirements for each of the 15 to 16 licenses for approval.

- St. Olaf is participating in a U.S. Dept. of Education study of attitudes about racism and diversity on college campuses. This is also an assessment issue, and a way to demonstrate learning over time in regard to large value questions.
- The Department of Education submitted the following proposal: that Education 231, Drugs and Alcohol, be changed from a 0 credit course, to a .25 credit course. Members raised questions about an option, mentioned in the proposal, that would allow students to register for either 0 or .25 credits. The proposal was TABLED.

Adjournment: 4:55

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Grasso, Secretary