

## **Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee**

### **Meeting of May 8, 2002**

**Members present:** Steve Soderlind, Margaret O'Leary, Ellen Osthus, David Booth, Tonya Cook, Joseph Mbele, Melissa Kalpin, Paul Zorn.

**Visitors:** Dick Brown, Matt Richey, Dave Van Wylen.

1. Steve Soderlind called the meeting to order about 3:30 pm. The minutes from 1 May 2002 were approved.
2. Extended discussion occurred in reference to a possible new major in Computer Science. The possible change is spurred partly by a recent review of the existing CS concentration. Dick Brown described aspects of the proposal and its rationale, and, more generally, of the academic discipline of computer science, its connections with other disciplines, and its place in a liberal education. While the existence of a CS major is very common at liberal arts colleges (nearly all ACM/GLGA colleges offer such majors), the proposed major would be distinctive to St. Olaf, incorporating (among other elements) a significant ethics component. Visitors Richey and Van Wylen discussed the place of the proposed program within the Mathematics Department and the Faculty of Science. Following discussion, CEPC agreed informally to support the idea of going ahead with planning for the proposed major, and to urge the College to continue the necessary discussion and negotiation. A formal motion to that effect is planned for the next meeting.
3. Steve Soderlind reported having received a letter of nomination for an honorary degree recipient. He will pass the letter on to the honorary degrees subcommittee for consideration next fall.
4. The meeting adjourned around 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Zorn, secretary pro tem