Committee of Committees Report
Wednesday, December 11th, 2013
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

In attendance: Peter von Allmen, CEPP Chair; Natalie Taylor, IPPC Vice-Chair; Jackie Murray, CIGU Chair; Pat Hilleren, CAFR Chair; Shirley Smith, CC Chair; Flagg Taylor, AC Member and FDC Member; Kate Leavitt, CAPT Chair; Cathy Gibson, CAS Chair; Mary Crone Odekon, FWWG Chair; Mehmet Odekon, Paul Sattler, Ting Li, Joerg Bibow, FEC Members.

1. FEC
   • This semester, FEC ran its two regular rounds and three special WTS.
   • At the start of the semester FEC participated in conversations about the MALS Program restructuring process that is now under way.
   • An ongoing issue concerns the re-design of the governance website(s) with the aim of eliminating duplication of web postings with sometimes conflicting information. The Dean is supportive of re-designing and simplifying the website and the IT Department has started the re-design. Sue Blair (DOF Office) will continue to maintain the webpage that has the general committee information (description and membership). Committees will be responsible for maintaining their respective committee webpage where documents such as operating code and minutes are to be posted.
   • FEC has continued working on Faculty Governance reform, a project that was started last academic year. FEC plans to present a proposal at the upcoming Academic Summit in January 2014, which FEC is co-organizing. The more specific planning on governance reform will be closely coordinated with the FWWG.
   • Other topics to be covered at the Academic Summit will be finalized and announced to the faculty shortly. The President of Union College will be the invited speaker.

2. FWWG
   • FWWG noticed the importance of making sure what their work is aligned with that of other committees. FWWG started its work last summer focusing on issues such as how faculty members spend their time, Faculty Handbook language, committee structure, and the shared governance system.
   • The FWWG’s work on Faculty Handbook language overlaps with what CAPT and FEC do. FWWG addresses the matter from another perspective.
   • FWWG was originally supposed to exist only until Dec. 20th, 2013. Since only part of its remit had been completed, the Dean requested an extension by one semester, which FEC agreed to.
• The main things that are taking more time are faculty governance and working load. FWWG is now looking at when and how to grant course reductions and change teaching hours.
• Regarding the shared governance system the faculty may need to think if we want to switch into a completely new system or just undertake some less fundamental reforms to the current one.

3. CAFR
• The Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) largely conducts work that is confidential; however the Chair was able to report that, while she has met informally a few times with individuals, so far no formal meeting was required.
• CAFR plan to meet next semester, because there are some issues related to the operating code of CAFR (student grading agreements). CAFR will review the problems of CAFR operating code and the new language in the Faculty Handbook.

4. CAPT
• CAPT had productive meetings this year. Apart from their routine but very demanding work, CAPT was able to solve some of their operating code issues.

5. CC
• CC has formalized operating with a list of practices that will avoid reliance on administrators or minutes in future;
• CC has gone electronic. All documents are submitted and stored in Datastor (Netshare);
• Regarding course with a flexible 4th credit hour (not a contact hour), CC will ask department chairs sometime in the spring semester to revisit the justification for the floating 4th credit hour, which requires that students be engaged for an additional 15 hours for that course. CC (and NY State compliance rules) will need prose demonstrating this commitment.

6. CIGU
• CIGU initiated a Climate Survey among students and faculty last spring.
• CIGU have worked on compiling all the available information from the climate study this semester. They are mostly done with student data analysis and will keep working on faculty data.
• CIGU has prepared a White Paper for the Strategic Plan as requested by IPPC.
• CIGU can help handling issues related to diversity in a number of ways.

7. CEPP
• CEPP had a difficult start as the Chair is the only continuing faculty member and time conflicts existed for the student representative.
• CEPP has had good interactions with CC about minors and with the MALS program coordinator regarding MALS program restructuring. At the spring CEPP retreat, they will discuss how to staff a CEPP sub-committee, which will take care of the next stage of the MALS restructuring process.
• ACOP, a standing subcommittee of CEPP reviewed the National Student Exchange Program and various study abroad issues.
• CEPP has two administrators among its members: the Dean of Faculty/VPAA and the Dean of Students/VPSA.
• The Chair gave an update on the new course evaluation form, on the motivation for the ongoing curriculum review, and the FYE.

8. AC
• AC met five times in the semester.
• Last spring Athletic Department did their “Title 9 review” on general availability of sport facilities.
• This fall Athletic Department undertook a survey to judge interest in the sports available at Skidmore.
• AC discussed issues about waivers and how to make sure student athletes do better academically while they are in season.

9. FDC
• FDC met eight times this fall.
• This included their routine tasks as deciding on the FDC Distinguished Faculty Service Award, Faculty Development Grants, and Sabbatical Enhancement Awards.
• Their non-routine work focused on the issue of Sabbatical Enhancement Grants (currently calculated at 10% of the salary). Due to a rise in the number of applications the process for SEGs has become more competitive. FDC is developing more specific criteria for these grants and will provide more information on how proposals are evaluated. The goal is to raise SEGs so as to provide 85% of income.

10. CAS
• The rules regarding the waiver for students with a GPA below 2.0 are being reviewed.
• CAS has been working on operating code changes.
• Currently there are three kinds of leaves: personal leave, academic leave, and medical leave. CAS will get rid of the academic leave and create more flexibility for students.

11. IPPC
• IPPC agreed on the Annual strategic action agenda while the process leading to the new Strategic Plan is on its way.
• IPPC worked on the issues of a smoke-free campus and campus smoking policy and reviewed the Political Activity Policy.
• Work related to the upcoming Middle States Re-Accreditation is ongoing.

Committees reported that working relations with the administration and relations among the committees were generally healthy and very productive.