CAP Meeting 9/3/15

Present: Karen Brewer, Chair; Tara McKee; Penny Yee; Steve Orvis; John Eldevik; Cheryl Morgan; Lydia Hamesley
Absent: Steve Wu (travelling)

The meeting began at 4:15

1) Minutes of the August 26 meeting were approved.

2) The committee discussed its participation in the working group on diversity and inclusion and potential reactions to proposals to implement a diversity requirement of some kind in the open curriculum. While acknowledging the difficulty of defining “diversity” and “inclusion” in the context of educational outcomes, the committee emphasized the need to clearly formulate what the goal of any curricular changes or added requirements might be. What is the specific outcome we desire and how does the change achieve that? While there was a general consensus that a formal course requirement was not feasible, the committee discussed a number of other ways the College might advance its goals for diversity and inclusion in the curriculum. The committee also recognized that individual departments have, and are, working towards developing diversity education as part of their own concentration requirements.

3) Dean Yee reported that the Dean’s office has funds available for First Year Course development grants and would solicit applications from faculty for the coming year. It was proposed that CAP should be provided with at least summaries of the applications and the nature of the proposed courses.

4) The committee drew up a list of about 10 faculty names to pass to Academic Council for consideration in building a ballot for election to the CAP sub-committee on the Curriculum. Emphasis was placed on representation from the four academic divisions, interdisciplinary programs, as well as from among junior and senior faculty.

5) The committee discussed ways to provide departments with better guidelines for writing allocation requests in order to help them clarify and emphasize curricular goals and long term planning. The current outline can be confusing and makes it difficult to develop a coherent narrative in the application, and key information may be left out. It was suggested that the committee explore using an analytic survey platform such as Qualtrics to create a template of fields with clear prompts that chairs could fill in, but with the opportunity to attach more information at the end as necessary.
6) The chair proposed considering moving the allocation request process up several weeks in the spring semester (beginning ‘16-'17) to allow departments and the Committee to think more carefully about long term planning, prioritizing applications, and allowing more time for feedback/resubmission if necessary. It was decided to solicit feedback from department chairs to see what change in the timeline might be feasible.

The meeting concluded at 6pm.