CAP Meeting 10/8/15

Present: Karen Brewer, Chair; Tara McKee; Penny Yee; Steve Orvis; John Eldevik; Cheryl Morgan; Lydia Hamessley, Steve Wu

Meeting commenced at 4:15pm

1) Minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting were approved.

2) The committee discussed more about the Music Department concentration changes that might affect the Medieval/Renaissance Studies minor. Lydia reported that she plans to develop a new course (not a requirement for the concentration) that will be quite relevant to students pursuing Medieval/Renaissance Studies.

3) The committee discussed the 0.25 credit course (College Course) proposed by Susan Mason. There was some concern that we do not have an existing department or program in leadership studies. Might an approval of this course be sanctioning the creation of a new program? What would happen to this course after the instructor is no longer at Hamilton? There was concern that another course is being approved where there is no home department. One question that arose was whether this might be appropriate as an Education Studies course. Would the institution be committing to hire an instructor to continue offering this course in the future? Some committee members argued that there are many courses that are introduced due to the hiring of new and visiting faculty and those courses are often removed from the catalogue after the departure of those faculty members.

4. The committee discussed other questions related to this issue and related to the charge of the subcommittee on the curriculum. Some issues and questions that the subcommittee might consider:
   - What is the process through which new courses arise?
   - How do new courses get established without a departmental home?
   - How do new programs and departments get proposed/passed?
   - How might our curriculum adapt to new interests?
   - Who makes these decisions about the direction of the curriculum?
   - How do departments/programs get closed or shut down?
   - Do we have commitments to existing programs? Or do we make changes according to the people that we have at the College?
   - What is the purpose of a department? Is the organization primarily for administrative or curricular purposes?
   - An idea discussed was to have the committee use the recently passed educational goals as a starting point. How does our curriculum support these goals?

The committee discussed how the curriculum subcommittee might have a process for getting feedback. One idea was to go to department meetings, or perhaps to have town hall discussions during faculty meetings, or to have gatherings in various divisions at the College. One idea proposed was to have additional discussions with junior faculty.
The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Wu