Committee on Academic Policy  
Minutes for February 18, 2016

Attending: Karen Brewer (Chair), John Eldevik, Rob Hopkins, Tara McKee, Cheryl Morgan, Steve Orvis, Steve Wu

The meeting began at 4:20 pm

1. The minutes for the 2/11/16 meeting were approved
2. Steve Orvis provided an update on the Diversity Working Group’s reactions to the CAP revision of the motion for a Committee of the Whole to discuss the proposed diversity requirement. Overall, the Working Group members reacted very positively to the revision and were supportive of the changes made to the original document. One concern expressed dealt with the practicality of CAP enforcing this new requirement. CAP members agreed that while we will be bringing forth this motion, enforcing it would be a responsibility for the Dean of Faculty, and not for CAP. The committee then discussed how easy or difficult it might be for certain departments to address the requirement.
3. Karen announced that Rob Hopkins has agreed to be next year’s CAP chair.
4. The committee looked at a list of current pro-seminars and discussed the possibility of a motion that would eliminate this category of courses. Karen will send an email to department chairs to get feedback on a possible motion.
5. The committee continued its discussion about foreign language instruction at Hamilton. Karen will work on drafting a survey that will go out to faculty in the foreign languages and the committee will then suggest revisions. At this point, a tentative plan is to have a 3-4 hour meeting during senior week to discuss various issues surrounding the foreign language departments. Some potential questions to address include: what criteria will be used to guide the decision-making process regarding allocating resources to various languages? What is the role of various types of language instruction (e.g. critical language model using student tutors, potential on-line instruction, partnerships with NY6) and how do we determine which types of courses deserve College credit? How might new kinds of faculty positions (for example a continuing non-tenurable position that may last more than six years) be used to provide more resources to language instruction? How might intellectual connections between those in foreign languages and faculty in other departments be better forged?

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.