

CAPP Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2015

Present: Maria, David, Danielle, John, Francesca, Scott, Steve

RAS update:

John gave us an update on RAS. We still need one more at-large member for RAS. Larry needs to send out the request for RAS proposals to the faculty at large.

FYS section for Environmental Fellows:

The Environmental Fellows program would like all their incoming students placed into a single first-year seminar section, which would be just for Environmental Fellows students. After our discussions, we came to the conclusion that it is too late in the year for use to make a reasoned decision about this for next year. We did not want to open the door for all sorts of different groups requesting this sort of thing. We also believe that the program should probably have its own course, instead of using first-year seminars.

Distribution issues:

John filled us in on some comments and criticisms that the plan has received. Some issues were relatively minor, and easily addressed:

- The right hand side column should stay as it is. The others can be alphabetized.
- Creative writing will count as a creative expression class.
- We will need to make it clear what courses will count for what requirement.

We spent most of the rest of the meeting discussing issues regarding the science requirement, math/computational requirement, and Q. Some faculty members are wondering what the difference is between Q and the Math/Computational requirement. Others are wondering if the split between Natural Science and Math/Computational is fair, given that Natural Science has six departments and Math/Computation has two.

Our discussion basically led us to the fact that we cannot make really substantive changes to the proposal at this time. We should be prepared to discuss the issues mentioned above about science, math, and Q, and be prepared to deal with a possible proposed amendment from the sciences. We should probably revisit what Q means next year, particularly whether it should be a higher-level idea. There could be a parallel with the W program – a low-level course prepares the student, then the W/Q course would be a higher-level course. We should try to get some hard data about what courses people take to satisfy the current SM requirement, and help John craft a request to Bill or Ken to get appropriate data.