

CAPP's general guidelines to RAS for its consideration of proposals (revised May 2012)

As members of RAS, you have one of the most important roles in the University.

RAS decisions help preserve the traditional strengths of DePauw's curriculum, shape course offerings in individual departments and programs, and promote curricular change. Your decisions also keep the institution vibrant, attractive, and challenging for future generations of students.

To be successful, RAS must look at the curriculum as a whole, with members striving to put aside departmental/program politics and rivalry. While members will want to consider how particular majors and interdisciplinary programs could be strengthened from proposed positions, you should also reflect on how proposed new hires would contribute to DePauw's mission as a liberal arts University, to particular institutional goals, and to DePauw's general education curriculum.

CAPP considers the following five categories crucial for RAS to consider in reviewing proposals.

The liberal arts tradition: Think about what it means to be a liberal arts University in the 21st century. Consider, e.g., one guiding text for inspiration:

Enlightenment is [each person's] release from... self-incurred tutelage. Tutelage is [a person's] inability to make use of [her] understanding without direction from another... *Sapere aude!* "Have courage to use your own reason!" – that is the motto of enlightenment. Laziness and cowardice are the reasons why so great a portion of mankind, after nature has long since discharged them from external direction, nevertheless remains under lifelong tutelage, and why it is so easy for others to set themselves up as their guardians. It is so easy not to be of age. (Immanuel Kant (1784). "What is Enlightenment")

- What can a DePauw education do to empower students to make free decisions – guided not by popular dogma but by their own critical evaluation of what's true and what's of value – in the world they inherit upon graduation? What must an educational institution focus on to liberate students from today's forms of self-incurred tutelage?
- What areas of study should we strive to preserve against the vagaries of changing contemporary interests with the goal of maintaining a traditional liberal education?

DePauw's institutional goals:

- Academic excellence and high academic standards
- Internationalization of the curriculum
- Ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in the curriculum
- Interdisciplinarity across the curriculum
- Ethical and environmental initiatives
- Strong disciplinary majors

General education requirements and goals:

- Area requirements (AH, SS, SM) and language requirement
- Competence requirements (Writing, Quantitative Reasoning, Speaking and Listening)
- First-year seminars
- Writing in the major

Student scholarship, research, and projects in the arts:

- Opportunities for collaborative work
- Preparation for graduate study

Student academic interest, engagement, and enrollment:

- Patterns evident in choice of majors
- Enrollment patterns
- Patterns evident in student choice of off-campus study; in student special interest groups; and/or in other student-initiated activities outside the classroom.