

## **CAPP Meeting 3/16/15**

**In attendance: John Caraher (chair); Francesca Seaman, Katie Condry, Scott Thede, Kerri Garrigas, Steve Timm, Jesse Vivescas; Larry Stimpert; Dave Guinee; Danielle Kane (notetaker)**

1. CAPP first discussed the proposal for an environmental biology major. Four issues were raised initially: (1) the possibility that there is internal (to the biology department) disagreement about this major; (2) that it is insufficiently different from what's currently possible in the biology department; (3) that it is unclear that a senior seminar devoted to environmental biology would be available; and (4) that the required courses (13.5) might exceed the acceptable number.

For #2, CAPP discussed how doing an environmental specialization under the current structure was predicated on using distribution requirements toward this concentration, and members felt this was an improper use of distribution requirements. For #4, CAPP found that the limit of required courses is 14, so this proposal does not exceed the limit.

2. However, the discussion shifted to a focus on whether this might be a good time to reconceive of how DePauw structures coursework for students interested in environmental studies. More specifically, it seemed to many members that the moment could be right for a single interdisciplinary Environmental Studies or Environmental Science major with several tracks as options (eg biology, geoscience, policy). Larry suggested that rather than responding to this proposal directly that CAPP contact Jim Benedix and Fred Soster to see if the two departments (or representatives of the two departments) would be willing to meet to discuss the possibility of a new interdisciplinary major; Larry agreed to chair this meeting.

3. It was decided that John will draft an email to Jim and Fred to set up a meeting about the possibility of an interdisciplinary major; John will first send a draft to CAPP members.

4. CAPP then discussed a proposal crafted by Dave Guinee to put forward to the faculty regarding distribution requirements, including a multicultural/intercultural/diversity requirement.

5. CAPP agreed that for the faculty to seriously consider any proposal, it must include a rationale for each of its components and detail how courses will or will not cross-count. (For instance, can one course satisfy more than one distribution requirement?) However, the specifics of which courses can be approved will await further discussion. CAPP agreed that each component should include a one-line (or more) rationale for why we think it belongs in a DePauw education; responsibility for each component was divvied up among members, and The Guinee Plan will be available on Google Docs for editing. The specific language must be in place for the next CAPP meeting (March 30<sup>th</sup>), so that we can vote on it for passing it on for a faculty vote.