

## CAPP Minutes

11/10/14

Present: John Caraher (Chair), Dave Guinee, Francesca Seaman, Scott Thede, Danielle Kane, Mark McCoy. Dave Berque (for Larry Stimpert), Gesenia Viviescas, Katie Kondry, Maria Carriga (via Skype), Steve Timm

John announced that given the recent concerns on campus the planned agenda would be revised. The only topic on today's meeting is considering an M requirement. A lively discussion followed.

John identified previous charges to the faculty from DEC and Student Government (posted on Moodle).

1. Identify best practices to (DEC)
2. Student Government

John pointed out that student participation and voice was already built into the structure of CAPP.

The committee considered an overview of models of an M requirement from the University of San Diego, Oberlin, and St. Olaf. Clarification is needed from members of the community seeking an M requirement. Models were discussed with consideration given to curricular components, practical components, limitations on defining an M requirement to diversity of race, engaging and including the entire DePauw community in the conversation.

John reiterated the need to determine goals for an M requirement. He summarized the Friday and Sunday campus-wide meetings.

The following discussion identified the complexities of the challenge facing the DePauw community. Students don't want a band-aid response. Comments suggested including a diversity and multi-cultural discussions within the first year seminar, expanding the first year seminar to two semesters, creating a common course, increasing faculty awareness of diversity issues, educating faculty and staff about micro-aggressions, and including a multi-cultural aspect in more classes.

The committee noted that an M requirement had limited reach within the community, and that there's a perception among students that if they report a problem in class, they're getting no return. Broadening faculty development's role in orienting new faculty to multi-cultural and diversity issues, as well as structuring ongoing and regular conversations with all faculty, was suggested. Administrative support for FD funds to back course development is needed. Dave B. informed the committee that statistics were available on the percentage of students currently enrolled in courses identified as potential M courses.

CAPP then considered the need to comprehensively identify the problem before implanting solutions. Discussion of “design thinking” ensued. CAPP wants to ensure that all voices are represented in identifying the issue(s) on campus and in the attempts to resolve the issue(s).

Consideration was given to a CAPP statement issued to the DePauw community. The final version of the statement is included below:

Dear Colleagues,

DePauw’s course catalog states, “A DePauw education asserts that developing a global perspective and an appreciation and tolerance for a more diverse society are vital for living in an increasingly interdependent world.” Furthermore, the faculty-approved statement, “The Purpose and Aims of DePauw,” says, in part, that the DePauw curriculum is designed “to broaden (students’) perspectives on humanity and culture” and “to give them an understanding of the contemporary world and the human prospect for the next decades.” The Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP) fully endorses these goals. We acknowledge that progress has been made yet recognize that there is still much to do.

Therefore, in order better to fulfill these longstanding commitments regarding the aims of a DePauw education, CAPP resolves to work with the students, faculty and staff of DePauw University to propose, by the April 6, 2015 faculty meeting (ensuring a vote no later than the May 4, 2015 faculty meeting), changes to ensure that the DePauw experience prepares all graduates to engage problems of social inequality in a productive, ethical and informed manner. The DePauw education will include, as major objectives, providing knowledge, skills and opportunities required to attain a rich understanding of historical and contemporary stories of difference, particularly in the interactions between dominant and marginalized groups within a culture.

Submitted for your information on behalf of CAPP,

John Caraher  
Chair, Committee on Academic Policy and Planning

CAPP will continue to discuss these issues at the next meeting, Nov. 17, 2014.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Email on syllabi:

Dear DePauw Faculty Members,

This afternoon, the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning met for a spirited discussion of a multicultural requirement for graduation. The committee felt it important to point out that there are also steps we can take right now to respond to student concerns and address pertinent issues in the classes we already teach (and of course, many faculty members already focus on such material).

As you order books and make your syllabi for next term, please consider whether there's something within the purview of your class that might address questions of social inequality and privilege, in whatever way is most consonant with the methods and substance of your discipline.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

The members of CAPP...

Gesenia Viviescas '17  
Steve Timm  
Scott Thede  
Francesca Seaman  
Mark McCoy  
Katharine Kondry '16  
Danielle Kane  
David Guinee

John Caraher  
Dave Berque (representing Larry Stimpert)