

SEPC Minutes, October 29, 2003

Absent: Julieanne Smolinski, Sultana Noon, Abigail Greer, Amelia Powell

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General Issues:

The RCLC has become the Isabel Kaplan Center for Languages and Cultures - IKCLC.

APC has published a set of three proposals to be considered at the next faculty meeting. In brief these proposals are: 1) that the add/drop period be shortened from 3 weeks to 2 weeks. 2) that after the second week of term and before the seventh week of term, students should be allowed to withdraw from classes and that this be noted on their transcript as a (W) withdrawal, with permission of the dean & his/her advisor. Exceptional circumstances could entail (W) after the seventh week. and 3) For students entering in the Fall of 2004, the Bennington external transcript will no longer contain narrative evaluations, but will be concentrated in a chronological list of courses and grades (Pass, Fail, Marginal Pass, or letter grades if requested). Past & present students will be able to request a narrative or a non-narrative transcript. Many of you should remember that this proposal is an old one, originating last year, and although it was tabled for the time, research conducted by the dean's office has made it again a viable proposal in the eyes of those making proposals.

SEPC has a joint meeting with APC on Tuesday. Anyone who wishes to weigh in on that discussion should do so before this date. Please discuss this in your Houses. House Chairs Please report to Lawson, Heidi, or Any other SEPC member in your house.

Nino and Kate have informed SEPC reps that the proposal published in last week's minutes regarding the POD and Cage merger has been tried and failed, therefore, their response was "It's not going to happen," and "Don't plan on it".

The issue of sound leakage continues on, regardless of the artful manner in which people are being thrown against walls while Sound Studio users are recording, and the lovely cacophony produced by recording students while dancers are dancing.

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Discipline Updates:

Music: Justin Vitello has filled the 2nd Music SEPC position. Ron Anderson says, "Get Your Flu Shots". Student Works this term will not be a Marathon, and will be composed of both student and fac. work, but may not have to be original compositions, ie. performance of other works may be acceptable. Deadline for SW performance proposals: 14th of November. The faculty has also come to the realization that: "Electronic Music Students Need to Be Integrated". Many classes next term will have Music Workshop requirements; MW is Tuesday, 6:30-8 next term. There is a movement for a student lounge on the 2nd floor of Jennings, and along with coffee and chairs, the music students are looking to get art. The catch is that any art in Jennings has to go through the Land and Building Use Committee. If you are still interested, talk to Emerald or Justin. Next term there will be an "Evening of Brahms" - so keep an eye out for more info.

Sci & Math: A Paleontologist, Charles Marshall, from Harvard, will be giving 2 talks on Nov. 18, one at 8:00 in Tishman is directed towards the community at large; another earlier in the day in Barn 100 is open but directed towards Bruce Weber's evolutions class. Rachel Kiesel will be talking at Sci. Wkshp. Wed. @ 2, Drr

Vis Art: There is a huge problem with toxicity levels in Vapa, the new Spray Booth leaks out of the window and into studios; discussions with J. Goodrich & B. Tronsen are trying to resolve this issue so that students do not die slow, painful deaths. Ann Hamilton will be the Adams-Tillam lecturer this year. Tuesday the 18th of Nov she will be exhibiting at Mass MOCA and is looking for artists to do voice work with her (recording) and also for people to help install her show. USDAN Gallery is a wreck. Water damage has caused the floor to buckle and as a result there is uncertainty about when shows will be happening. Kat & Oberon have organized a system for signup space. Interested artists will write a proposal to be reviewed, and if approved their work will be set up on a Sunday and taken down on the following week. Cross Media Critique is Thurs @ 8. Jr & 2nd tm. Sr. reviews are Nov 17, 18, 19.

Drama: Monday, 21 Nov. is the date for proposals for directing pieces next year. Forms are available in the Dance/Drama conference room. Drama Forum: 11/5 - No faculty; student discussion. 11/12 (NEW TIME: 12:30-1) Rep. from BADA about study abroad in London.

Literature: Next week Lit. gathering will be a grad school talk. Mark Porier & Chris Miller will discuss different types of grad school for literature focii.

IKCLC: see above. Nick discussed the details for the IKCLC Holiday Party. Hot tubs and Bowling. we wish we were them. Curriculum 2004 is done.

Dance: faculty are still figuring out the \$ for ACDFA festival in February. Mt. Greylock HS in MA is looking for a student teacher, talk to Terry Creach if interested. Sound Equipment won't be in until the end of the semester, and the dance faculty is looking at who is going to keep the studio floors clean, as well as discussing condition of studios in general.

Freshmen: are concerned with changing advisors (IT CAN BE DONE), the difference between writing and literature classes, and the quality of evaluation. Freshmen appear to believe that individual attention is lacking and that feedback is more "grades in words" than how they can improve.