

Surprising tidbits about other people's sex lives

S.E.P.C.-

Minutes for October 28, 1993

Present: J.R. Schapp (Chair), Jenny Zeuli (Secretary), Mikel Wadewitz, Tina Gross, Giles Lewey, Sandra Mendes, Amy Huff, Jonas Omberg, Crista Cook, Jay Metz.

Meeting called to order around 6:20. FROM NOW ON MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 6:15. This is because dinner was moved back fifteen minutes.

FACULTY REVIEWS:

The dates and times for Committee members to meet with FPC are more or less set. They are as follows:

NOVEMBER 3:

Language: 8:45 - 9:00

Literature: 9:15 - 10:15

NOVEMBER 10:

Social Science: 8:45 - 9:20

Dance/Drama: 9:30 - 9:50

Music: 10:00 - 10:30

Both these dates are Wednesdays, and all meetings will take place in the morning, in the President's Conference Room. Reps should provide separate (typed!) summaries for canvass letters and class comments—the files in the SEPC office are unlocked, so you shouldn't have trouble getting access to the class comments. We don't appear to have gotten a great response to canvass letters (alas!), which at least cuts down on your work, I guess....

MONEY:

Congratulations to Giles, who won big in Atlantic City over Long Weekend. Hey...yesterday Pinbot, today Atlantic City, tomorrow the world. Says Rosie, "We're proud of you, son."

SOCIAL SCIENCE:

This is really nasty—apparently, Ricky Blake, who was scheduled to teach through next June and then retire, was told by President Coleman that his contract would be terminated on December 31. Her reasoning, as far as anybody can figure out, goes something like this: the mandatory retirement law is only in effect through December. If Ricky weren't retiring in June, he would have another four years under his present contract. He could change his mind, in other words. No, I don't know why this constitutes a problem. Anyway, Ricky was then offered another contract, which would cover just next spring term, but because of the horrible way the whole thing was handled, he refused. Congratulations, President Coleman. So as of next term, we will only have one psychologist. The Division is conducting the search now; the first candidate is here this week. The position is for a **developmental psychologist**, and everyone is invited to participate in the process. Each candidate will give a presentation on a topic within his/her area of expertise—for a schedule of these talks, see the Social Science division office.

Also, **Ken Kensinger** will not be returning next term as his grant has been extended. So the Division voted to keep **Catherine Howard** for another term (and recommended that she be full-time), and then, depending on what happens with Ken, possibly begin a search.

SCIENCE:

Jay and Amy held a meeting for all undergrads involved with the Science Division. Topics of discussion included the post bac program, as well as the use of **grades**. This led to a brief conversation among Committee members, as well. In the Science Division, grades are often (but not always) assigned...it seems that they are recorded apart from the transcript itself, but they help when a student applies to grad school. Does this stand in opposition to Bennington's educational philosophy? Or should all divisions do this? There was some confusion about post facto grades, as well. Does the Dean of Studies ever translate comments into grades? Should they? Giles says that sometimes this is done by the school you apply to. How odd. As far as the post bac program (a "post bac" is a student who comes here after completing an undergraduate degree in order to get more science-related credits before applying to med school or something similar), a number of difficulties have been discussed. There are 21 such students this year, and in some classes within the Division they are in the majority. Because their motives, their needs, and their goals are different from those of the undergrads, the dynamic of the class is often drastically altered. In addition, post bacs only take three classes per term, and so the teachers of these classes may teach as if these classes are thirds instead of quarters for everybody. Hmmm.... More news as it develops.

LIT:

Jamaica Kincaid is reading on Monday, November 1. Also, it was reported that **Michelle Wright**, who teaches Arthurian Lit and French, will probably be offered a contract for next year.

DRAMA:

Paul Zimmet will be here next term. He'll be doing the faculty production, which will apparently be produced in cooperation with the Dance Division. And speaking of Dance, **Terry Creach** will be on sabbatical next term. Poor Terry. The Committee seemed to be in agreement that he deserves it.

"SYMPOSIUM":

The practicality of discussing **John Dewey** was again questioned--that is, can it truly be relevant, and is it the best way to focus the "Symposium"? We'll see how next Tuesday's meeting goes (there's an informational panel on Dewey and Bennington in Commons).... **Susan Sgorbati's** comment on the "integration" of the alumni into the life of the College during Alumni Weekend was also discussed. Several members of the Committee felt that Alumni were **NOT** integrated, that in fact there was very little (or no) opportunity for students to meet formally with alums. We know that students were disgruntled about this, and apparently many of the alums were as well. **Rosie** told us a little more about the Talking Heads breakfast with The Trustees. Despite the fact that a large number of the trustees had to leave for another event fifteen minutes after breakfast began (???), **Rosie** had a pleasant meal with **John Barr** and **Ruth Dewing Ewing**. No joke. Nothing of substance was accomplished.

PLEASE BE ON TOP OF THIS FACULTY REVIEW THING.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05