

SEPC - Minutes - 9.30.03

Present: Lawson Wulsin (Head), Heidi Sulzdorf (Asst/Sec), Ayn Slavis (Drama), Oberon Redman (Vis. Art), Kat Whitledge (Vis. Art), Sultana Noon (Soc.Sci.), Nick Kraus (RCLC), Courtney Hill (Lit), Cory Stauffer (Lit), Patrick Davidson (Media).

Absent: Emerald Catron (Music)

Main Issues:

Faculty Hirings - the College is in the process of searching for the following faculty positions -
2 - Drama; 3 - Visual Arts (Digital Arts, Video, Drawing/Painting, most likely) 1 - Literature (maybe poetry)

James Zatalokin has been hired to help students with writing, he will have an office in the library, and hours/e-mail will be published here when available.

SEPC had a long discussion about the Democracy Project, a program group that has been proposed. A "Program Group" is the name for courses from multiple disciplines that speak to similar issues. Bennington has 2 program groups at the present time, those being The Embodied Mind and Media Studies. The proposed group has yet to be solidified, and a steering committee exists. Essentially, the College is looking at creating a number of different courses that speak to themes of democracy, for example, the place of an individual in a collective, through different disciplines - music, social sciences, etc. SEPC talked about what this means, the semantics of the title and the validity of the idea (i.e. whether "democracy" is an appropriate title or idea, one free soul mentioned anarchy). As we know more, we'll tell you.

There was some question as to why there was not more organized information about graduate schools, perhaps an informational session for 2nd term Jrs and 1st term Srs. SEPC is investigating the resources available in the Career Center/FWT Office.

Discipline Updates:

Social Science. SEPC reps are considering ways to poll the student population about their experience of the social sciences. Population sample, as well as method, are yet to be determined.

Literature: This week there will be a staff reading (Ben Jones, Priscilla Hodgkins, and David Reese) Wednesday, 7:30 pm in the Welling Living Room.

Media: Does it exist, does it not exist, the question continues to be debated. We have found that MEDIA STUDIES actually exists as a category of study in the Book on Bennington and is a "program group".

Visual Arts: How (with the faculty show or separate) and When (December or in the Spring) to show the work of 2nd term Seniors, of which there are more than normal, is being discussed. Students are being brought into the discussion. The Roof is being Removed from Usdan. Therefore, the faculty show opening has been moved until Nov. 18, at 7:30. There are questions being raised about the presence and absence of security in VAPA visa vi stolen property and locked areas. Kat and Oberon are organizing a white board for students to propose exhibitions in open spaces. The placement of the Vending Machines, of utmost importance, is being reconsidered by SEPC reps, who want to use the current space for student work.

RCLC: There are some questions about suggestions vs. requirements in Study Abroad - when it should happen in a student's career, etc. Lawson is looking into the helpfulness of the resources available and the strictness of guidelines.

Drama: Again, security issues in VAPA, with E217, the door to which is often left open with no monitor. There is need for maintenance in D207 (walls & benches). There is also some discussion happening about whether community service, especially that which incorporates Drama, should be included in the student plan.