

CEPP Meeting October 23, 2001

Present: Sandy Baum(Chair), John Berman, Pat Fehling, Frank Gonzalez, John Brueggemann, Doug Humphrey, Mike Meguerdichian, Pat Oles, Linda Simon, Janet Sorensen

Visitors: Ann Henderson, Jon Ramsey

Minutes of October 2, October 9 (revised version), and October 16 were approved. All

Sandy: Can we evaluate on-line courses the same way as other courses?

Ann: We need to be more specific about what you can't assume from the course description: what kind of interaction will students have? There is a lot broader variation in the student experience on-line. Is the course content appropriate and adequate? What contact time is there with faculty?

Jon Ramsey reminded us that review of most courses for transfer credit is quite routine and carried out by the registrar's office. He showed us a huge guide of on-line course offerings from all types of institutions across the country. He said that these institutions

Ann: Independent studies are the most scrutinized, as there is not any course description. The evaluation would primarily be a chair's decision. In fact, we may have accepted a distance learning course without even knowing it – they are not differentiated on a transcript.

Mike revealed that one of the courses for which he had received transfer credit was a distance learning course with a substantial on-line component, confirming the fact that such courses may already be receiving credit.

We discussed the need for CEPP to create a policy, then discussed possible ways to begin.

Sandy gave the committee an assignment to come to the next meeting with ideas about drafting the policy. We can share thought questions over e-mail before the next meeting – Sandy will draft a set of questions and circulate.

A flurry of comments came in the last few minutes of the meeting, centering around whether or not the responsibility for forming the policy could be given to chairs of departments. The committee agreed that the responsibility to create the policy should be at the institutional level and not at the departmental level. Ann reminded us that most on-line courses are at the introductory level, and that many would potentially be taken to fulfill all college requirements or as electives rather than major requirements. We discussed the possibility of creating guidelines at different levels for different types of courses.

The meeting adjourned and lively conversation continued.

Minutes respectfully submitted – Janet Sorensen