CPEP Board of Directors Meeting
November 20, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, 401 Physical Sciences Building

Minutes by Jan Zeserson.


Absent: Marge Wolff, Reeve Parker, Bruce Levitt, Dick Polenberg, Ray Roe, Benay Rubenstein,

Resigned since last meeting: David DeVries, Deborah Streeter, Emily Owens, Peter Enns, Fouad Makki, Lyrae Van Clef Stefanon

On Haitus: Barry Maxwell, Mary Katzenstein

Paul called the meeting to order and welcomed new Executive Director Rob Scott, new Vice Provost Judith Appleton, and new Board Member Kirsten Coe.

Executive Director announcements (Rob):

• There is now a “web portal” to coordinate board business.
• There is now a monthly electronic newsletter to the CPEP community.
• Proposal: the board meet four times per academic year… no objections were voiced, so that is the plan going forward.
• Reception/fundraiser hosted by Debbie Buell and Charles Henry, members of the CPEP-NYC Advisory Committee, at the Cornell Club in NYC on Nov. 13 attracted nearly 100 guests. The event was orchestrated by the Development Committee and the NYC Advisory Committee and raised nearly $45,000 to date. Bob underscored that the number of donors is also important, not just the amount. Rob said that 35 people donated and $25,000 came from one donor.
• A portion of ticket sales ($2,000) for a Hallowe’en rock concert in Manhattan was donated to CPEP through the efforts of another NYC Advisory Committee member, Michelle Renée-Smith (former CPEP instructor).

Development Committee update (Jan):

• The NYC-Advisory Committee emerged from the first-ever CPEP reception/fundraiser, held at the NYC home of Scott and Erica (Roizen) Belskey on May 29, 2013. The Advisory Committee now numbers 13 active members who are primarily TAs, former instructors, and their families. Christian French, board chair of Hudson Link, also serves on this Advisory Committee.
• Ithaca board members attending the Nov. 13 reception/fundraising event were Vice Provost Appleton, Rob, Pete, and Mary (all of whom spoke); Bob, Willie, Christian, Bruce, Jan. Also from Ithaca were Shane Kalb (who spoke) and John Crutchfield (former Auburn student, Ithaca resident).
• Representatives of The Fortune Society and The Castle were also present, as was
one of our former Auburn student’s current employer.

• Board discussion of Nov. 13 event: Christian and Judith reported that the event was a great success, especially the short speeches by former Auburn Students and the enthusiastic mingling by hosts and guests.

• Tom raised the question of our fundraising efforts in relation to AA&D. Jan said that two AA&D giving officers are advising the Development Committee at every turn. Judith said she will continue to be in contact with AA&D about how we might work together in mutually beneficial ways.

• Christian and Rob stressed the importance of donor and guest data management; Christian suggested http://salesforce.com.

• AA&D reached out to Rob to convene a meeting of CPEP TAs and instructors with Pres. Skorton’s campus guest Gara LaMarche on Nov. 5, taken as a positive sign that we are on AA&D’s radar.

• Christian and Nancy offered to serve on the Development Committee.

• Future plans, immediate:
  1. A major strength of our program is TA involvement, and we recognize the importance to the program of staying in touch after graduation. Towards that end, the Development Committee is looking towards an event at CU Commencement to honor graduating TAs. Envisioned as an opportunity for us to celebrate their volunteerism and for their families to meet the CPEP community, the success of such an event will depend entirely on how many CPEP board members and instructors commit to being there.
  2. Christian raised the idea of a TA alumni social event in NYC to strengthen that network.
  3. The Devel Ctte is talking with a NYC Cornell Club program manager about making a CPEP presentation to their group, similar to what Mary and two former Auburn students presented to a Northern NJ Cornell Club last June.

Planning Committee Report (Pete):

• Involving more faculty: Nancy has created a proposal for ways to entice faculty to teach courses, and the committee will refine and then circulate these ideas by email.

• More non-credit courses: the committee is discussing this as a way to reach more than just those students accepted into the degree program. We already offer non-credit courses in study skills, math, and writing, but just degree candidates. Christian said that Hudson Link has run a pilot program of non-credit courses, and he will share the data from that project with Rob.

• Professional (applied, vocational) component to the curriculum: In recognition that job-readiness is another priority, the planning committee is discussing how we might augment our current, strictly liberal arts curriculum.

Curriculum Committee Report (Tom, Rob, Paul):

• Course proposals for Spr ’14: there were just enough to fill the bill. Rob will be
more proactive next time to enlist higher volume now that he knows the campus better. Christian suggested an article in the Cornell Daily Sun; Jan suggested meeting with department and program graduate student groups; Bob streams slides about CPEP as his classes convene, which often prompts questions afterwards.

- Sally again voiced her concern about who will carry on the math program; how to offer the needed courses at appropriate intervals; and how to assure that math is assigned enough undergrad/grad math tutoring TAs.
- For Spr ’14, TAs number 35, including 25 new and 10 returning students.
- Paul and Lisa Ellin will work together to shepherd TAs, anticipating at least three meetings throughout the semester.
- Paul will teach a CPEP-TA class again in Spr ’14.
- Rob and Kirsten are planning get-togethers for grad instructors; Kirsten has offered her home for informal gatherings.

Board Membership (Paul):

- The term for all current members is considered to have started officially on July 1, 2012, or more recently, and we’ll rotate off according to the charter.
- Paul proposed that the board appoint an ad hoc committee to review all nominations. After discussion, by unanimous consensus, the Planning Committee is now charged with this responsibility. Current members are invited to send nominations for new board members with a brief description to Pete (ww22@). As Paul wrote in a subsequent email, “We’re especially interested in colleagues of color, colleagues in the sciences, and formerly incarcerated people.” The committee will devise a procedure to present the board with a short list of candidates. Christian said that a member of Hudson Link board devised a very helpful nominating procedure, and he will put Pete and Rob in touch with her.

Choosing the Next Faculty Director (Paul):

Paul’s term ends Jan. 1, and he explained that we presently have two candidates to take his place: Tom and Mary (who is on leave until July 2014 and will retire in July 2015). He proposed two possible solutions:

2. Tom serves Jan 1 – June 30, 2014 and Mary serves a one-year term beginning July 1, 2014.

Everyone still present to discuss Paul’s proposals--Sally, Bill, Jan, Kirsten, Nancy, Steve, Christian, Pete, Rob, Bob (those that had to leave the meeting before this discussion were Tom, Willie, and Judy)--agreed that the ideal solution would be no. 2, with the hope that Tom would agree to return in July 2015 for 1.5 years to fulfill the limit of a two-year term. Rob said that in his discussions with both candidates, both are satisfied with this arrangement in proposition no. 2. Bill and Sally spoke to the advantage of three consecutive years of directorship stability. Paul said that because he would like the entire board to have the chance to take part in this decision, he will invite members who were not at this Nov. 20 board meeting to weigh in by email.
Addition to the minutes from Rob Scott:
Bill Goldsmith suggested a variation to the Tom/Mary proposal, that was basically Tom/Mary/Tom. In a Nov. 26 email he described it “Tom serves Jan-July 2014, Mary serves a one-year term beginning July 2014, and Tom serves July/August 2015 - Jan 2017.” Tom responded that he would appreciate the option to serve as Faculty Director again in 2015, but would prefer not to commit to that at this time.

Submitted by Jan on Nov. 24, 2013