CPEP Advisory Board Meeting – 8/17/15

**Notetaker:** Chris Garces – amended by Rob Scott

**Present from Ithaca Board:** Bill Goldsmith, Dick Polenberg, Sandra Green, Bruce Levitt, Tyi McCray, Benay Rubenstein, Alison Van Dyke, Christian French, Tom Owens Kirsten Deane Coe, Anna Haskins, Kyri Murdough, Ken McClane, Chris Garces Nicole Peppin, John Crutchfield, Rob Scott, Edward Bailey

**From NYC Board:** Lisa Wertheimer (remotely), Christian French (in person)

**Note:** This meeting was intended to include several additional members of the NYC Board through a conference call bridge – when CPEP staff arrived 20 minutes early for the meeting there were no tables or chairs set up and no phone. Cornell staff was called and the phone was set up just as the meeting began at 4:01pm or so, but with the exception of Lisa everyone calling in got a busy signal and couldn’t get through. A follow-up call with the NYC Board was planned but it was a lost opportunity.

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**Item 1: Set up conference call with NYC Board**

Lisa Wertheimer introduces herself.


Hudson Link. NYU. Columbia. John Jay. Vassar. See page two of the attached handouts, and please be invited. Bard Prison Program is a question mark for the consortium.

**Item 3: Faculty director vacancy July 1, 2016—June 30, 2018**

*Tom:* duties aren’t specifically defined. Mainly: provide support for the faculty director, liaise with different campus units.

*Rob:* who fills the position colors how it functions. Tom has played bad cop to Rob’s good cop, which has proven useful. Peter Enns’ term was a period of program growth.

*Tom:* the faculty director ought to “keep up with everything” in a period of unprecedented expansion.

*Christian:* the faculty director ought to liaise across the university, and likewise be on the lookout for CPEP’s interests.

*Rob:* the “executive team” has been *ad hoc* to date, but the faculty director is the primary go-to-person.
Item 4: Who will teach the Engaged (Reflection) Course for TAs on campus SP’16? (Mary offers to co-teach) FA’16?

Chris: possible to embed the Engaged course within a preexisting course being offered on campus?
Rob: no it would distract from the mission of begin a forum for discussion about TA experience of moving into carceral space?
Anna: willing to co-teach the course alongside someone with more experience.
Sondra: also willing to teach.
Bruce: wishes that the undergraduates had more sophistication and awareness of professionalization (e.g. dress code on the inside).

Item 5: Revision of Board Rules around Membership – proposal

Rules of board membership, agreed to 5 yrs ago:

“The board size should be limited to 22 – 24. Board members will serve a two-year term, which may be renewed for a second two-year term followed by a one-year hiatus. Every board member will serve on a committee. We hope to include at least one formerly incarcerated person, one campus undergraduate and one graduate student. At the end of each year, we will distribute a questionnaire to board members that asks each to elect a committee on which to serve the following year. This form will also provide members the option to leave the board.

“As vacancies occur on the Board, new members may be proposed and circulated by current Board members at least two weeks before a full meeting of the Board; new members will be approved at the meeting by voice vote. All Board members who joined by fall 2012 will assume to have completed the first year of their first term by June 2013. We expect that enough members will voluntarily leave the Board, for personal or professional reasons, by the beginning of each fall term to permit a reasonable rotation rate. “

Tom: should we temporarily set the rule aside, or leave it intact and address the question of term limits down the line? Business leader advisors suggest to leave the rules intact.
Rob and Sandra: several people coming to end of their term next summer have been there before there were terms—but they are some of the most capable board members.
Christian: there is something healthy about the introduction and renewal of diverse opinions. Right now: every two years one would have the option to renew up to four years.
Sandra: "incremental classes": recruitment would be much easier.
Tom: will work with the list of board members who are leaving, and later make a decision to change the rules.
Rob: suggests a rotation of 5-6 persons per year, whereas we currently have 7-8, which poses logistical difficulties for CPEP governance and continuity.
Ed: former board members who aren’t on the board, shouldn’t have their voices excused.
Sandra: a list of non-board members who are still willing to volunteer would be useful.
Christian: excellent for maintaining and developing expertise useful to CPEP.
Ed and Sandra: a show of appreciation to avoid closing the door on former board members.
Christian: New York has an “associate board” of former teachers who can grow and gain more voice in the program.
Ed: would Ithaca board teleconferencing with the New York board be salutary, a way to connect with boards? General agreement (Lisa concurs, suggests the Cornell Club).

Rob: nominates Jamila Mitchener to the board (Anna concurs). Jamila has jumped into helping with the new undergraduate minor in the Govt. dept. and is doing a guest lecture at Auburn and potentially teaching in the program.

(see handouts on Confirmed and Unconfirmed sources of funding -- the following dialogue is a response to that)

Item 7: Report on Grants/Fundraising: Mellon & Five Points, Ford, Sunshine Lady, Pell Initiative, Fundraisers

Tyi: (clarification re: Pell initiative) associates v. certificate?
Rob: not either/or. Both are possible- must be approved through regional accreditation boards
John: we ought to highlight to Feds that we have our own money, and let Pell Grants come to us.
Christian: we have to stay ahead of Pell grants, unless our competitors undermine our capacity to secure a portion of the Fed’s overall kitty. Pell is going to be a pilot program, coming from the POTUS budget. It’s a trial balloon. Problem: Cornell program, but not a Cornell degree. Always been somewhat awkward. Certificate is complementary.
Tyi: barriers to setting up a certificate program?
Bill: certificate would have to be set up in coordination with an academic unit.
Tom: thing that Cornell can provide in coordination with CCC is to provide TAs.
Rob: corruption of the prison system will work its way into any program, a difficulty that the Pell rollout has not taken this into account.
Anna: can we do a certificate program instead of Pell?
Rob: bottom line for whether we apply: our funders will be upset if we do not apply. We are not likely to succeed b/c we are an entirely donor-funded project.
Benay: there was a mixed level of education that was given depending on the colleges under the old Pell grant programs. A consortium of a number of colleges should be helpful to encourage and oversee accountability, not to mention political clout.
Rob: I was unpopular in NYC, Pell was in community colleges and 4 year degree programs were sometimes brought on top of them. Now, quality 4-year institutions are leading the charge. So federal grant money will be delegated more favorably to community colleges.
Bruce: we need to have a conversation about expansion (worried about Dave Roth, who hasn’t had an assistant for two years – and he’s managing 500 volunteers). Concerned that there will be a choke point in expansion, b/c all of our supervising personnel are located at Auburn, personnel who are already leaving within a reasonable period of time. The persons who are placed in Auburn should be placed on the inside.
Rob: problems of coordination are always part and parcel of juggling personnel, Mellon for example has offered to contact prison officers.
Ed: Jones at 5 points (formerly at Cayuga) ought to be contacted.
Rob: HWS has been running around teaching, but we can provide them with coordination—a major gift to them. It’s tricky to negotiate with prison officers regarding questions of security.
Ed: Pell grant is an experiment, but being an alum from Cayuga I know that the recidivism rate is crazy.
Chris: certificate programs are hugely popular among high-level administrators, so the time is ripe for sending creative proposals to the president and provosts based on our curricular and financial expansion.
Christian: good idea, could entirely reshape CPEP’s mission.
Rob: you may not leave with an associate degree, but certificates could be a great incentive for people to join or stay in the program.
Anna: what is the imagined or real value of a certificate?
Nicole: hiring bodies often privilege applicants who receive a professionalization certificate.
Sandra: lots of interest in business courses.
Bill: it would require 10 million to endow a 400k yearly program budget.
Rob: under what terms do other members in this consortium join us?
Chris: is the program-designation for CPEP institutionally inflexible enough to accommodate for expansion? should we consider forming a center or departmentalization of CPEP?
Anna: how can we talk with Cornell to be more flexible and supportive of junior faculty?
Tom: there’s not standard by which this may be implemented.
CPEP Advisory Board Meeting - August 17, 2015 – 401 Physical Sciences Bldg
Dial-in for NYC members: (607)255-3708

Agenda:

1. Set up conference call with NYC Board


3. Faculty Director Vacancy July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018

4. Who will teach the Engaged (Reflection) Course for TAs on campus SP’16? (Mary offers to co-teach) FA’16?

5. Revision of Board Rules around Membership – proposal


7. Discussion items: How to respond to the Pell grant situation? How to respond to the emerging need for consortium partners?

Following a few small meetings in 2015, the creation of an email list, and a press release timed with the announcement of the Second Chance Pell initiative, you are invited to join other programs in a day of conversation aimed at formulating and looking at program alignment, opportunities for collaboration, and simply to share information in the interest of building community and ultimately to better serve our students. The meeting will be hosted at Cornell University at the beautiful Cornell Plantations Welcome Center. Parking and meals are free; travel and hotels not covered.

**When:** Sunday October 4, 2015, 9:30am to 4pm with morning refreshments and lunch provided

**Where:** Comstock Knoll Lath House, 124 Comstock Knoll Dr, Cornell University, Ithaca NY

**What:** Meetings to discuss and develop NY Consortium for Higher Education in Prison

**Basic agenda** (under construction):

- 9:30am Coffee and refreshments.
- 10:00 Plenary meeting.
- 12:00pm Complimentary catered lunch.
- 1:00pm Upstate and downstate caucuses.
- 2:30pm Coffee and return to plenary.
- 3:00pm Next steps.
- 4:00pm Adjournment and guests assisted to NYC bus.
- 5:00pm Cornell bus to NYC departs.

**Travel – Destination and Bus Info**

The building we are meeting at is called the “Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center” though it appears on googlemaps and some GPSs as the “Comstock Knoll Lath House”. It is located at:

Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center
124 Comstock Knoll Drive
Cornell University Plantations
Ithaca, NY 14853

It is sandwiched in between Beebe Lake, Beebe Hall, and the Robinson Herb Garden on Plantations Road. Here is a [googlemap](http://cpep.cornell.edu/2015-nychep-meeting/). The building is pictured above.

**Cornell Campus-to-Campus Bus** runs directly from The Cornell Club at 6 E. 44th St. to the middle of Cornell University campus in Ithaca, NY. It generally takes between 4 and 4.5 hours and the $90 bus ticket includes free wifi, snacks, coffee, drinks, etc. There is also a departure from the Weill Cornell Medical College at 70th & York Ave. The bus departs NY twice on October 3rd, at 12:30 and 5pm — best to combine with a plan for lodging in
Ithaca and share your plans with Rob so he can help arrange Ithaca transportation. Anyone arriving early enough for dinner on the 3rd will be invited out to a location in Ithaca!

**Lodging – Night of October 3rd**

Out of town guests may wish to reserve a hotel room ASAP. As of August 13th, many hotels are already booked.

**Downtown Hotels**
- Argos Inn *No Vacancy*
- Henry Miller Inn B&B *No Vacancy*
- Hillside Inn ?????
- Hilton Garden Inn *No Vacancy*
- Ithaca Hotel *Rooms available!*
- Meadow Court Inn *Rooms available!*
- Statler Hotel *No Vacancy*
- Super 8 Motel *No Vacancy*

*Wider Map shows more*

The downtown hotels will be easiest to accommodate and nearest to Cornell University campus. There are many **additional hotels** near the surrounding highway (Rte. 13). Whatever arrangements you make, let Rob know and he'll be sure you are supported.

[Edit this page]
Confirmed Sources of Funding for the Program

1. Sunshine Lady Foundation – Auburn CF
   A. 2010-2016 Agreement: $180,000/yr
      i. Funding for 14 courses per year
         a. $3,000/course for graduate instructors
         b. $1,200/course for course texts
      ii. Funding for full-time Exec Director with no benefits
      iii. Funding for half-time Coordinator with no benefits
   B. 2016-2019 Proposal (in process): $100,000/yr
      i. Requesting funding for course support and half Coordinator
      ii. No funding for Exec Director, firm.
      iii. No funding for benefits or expansion, firm.

2. DOCCS College Access Challenge Grant – Auburn and Cayuga CFs
   A. Dept. of Ed. funding to support college readiness and re-entry workshops
      i. FY 2013: $21,000
      ii. FY 2014: $30,000
      iii. FY 2015: $38,000
   B. Original idea was to use this grant to fund half a coordinator’s position
   C. Revised idea: the grant supports college prep and most of a half coordinator

3. Unrestricted Gifts
   A. $500,000 cash on hand
   B. Two tiers of fundraisers proposed in the fall
   C. Washington DC fundraiser in spring

Figures: These two images came to crystallize the new proposals on the following page. The first looks at the radiating impact of CPEP beyond the prison classroom. The other looks that the potential for impact beyond Auburn and Cayuga
Unconfirmed Sources of Funding for the Program

1. Ford Foundation Grant – for classes at Auburn and Cayuga CF
   A. No determination yet – proposal submitted April 21, 2015
   B. $50,000 requested to fund 10 courses during 2015-16
      i. $3,000/course for graduate instructors
      ii. $1,500/course for course texts
   C. Remaining $5,000 to F&A

2. Mellon Foundation Grant – to launch programs at Five Point CF and Elmira CF
   A. No determination yet – proposal submitted July 27, 2015
   B. $1,000,000 requested to fund new programming during 2016-18
      i. Growing to offer 30 new courses/year (20 at Five Points, 10 at Elmira)
         a. $2,800-$4,200 sliding scale for course instructors
         b. $1,500/course for course texts
      ii. Full-time Five Points Coordinator to begin Spring 2016
      iii. Full-time Academic Director to begin Summer 2016
      iv. Half-time Elmira Coordinator to begin Summer 2017
      v. Some support for Exec. Director salary throughout
      vi. $20,000/yr for partner support and money for consortium meetings
   C. Proposal would see Cornell facilitating college programs in all nearby prisons
   D. Mellon Foundation expressed enthusiasm about connecting with Central NY
      Humanities Corridor which was recently provided an endowment gift.
   E. Exec Director to continue to focus on development (finances, new
      partnerships, campus student outcomes in particular) while Academic Director
      provides oversight to the four college-in-prison programs, existing college
      partnerships, degree completion, and prison site development and events
   F. >60 courses/year and >200 incarcerated students --- consortium

3. Second Chance Pell Pilot Program
   A. Program Constraints:
      1. No lifers and no-one with >5 year sentence remaining
      2. Maximum of $5,775/year available to matriculated undergraduates
      3. Application letter must come from Financial Aid office
      4. Secretary of Education will select a small number of sites for the study
   B. CPEP Constraints:
      1. Most nearby prisons are maximum security with mainly >5 sentences
      2. Cornell Continuing Ed. students are not matriculated, thus ineligible
      3. Financial Aid office of Cayuga Community College being approached
      4. If CPEP were selected, 100% of Pell money would go to CCC
   C. Big picture:
      1. We should form a committee to create a certificate program that we can
         matriculate students into through Cornell, in case Pell returns.
      2. If Cayuga CF program had been just Pell eligible CCC in Spring 2015,
         then CCC would have received $39,516 – assuming out-of-state tuition
      3. Republican-controlled Congress is trying to curtail Pell
CPEP Organizational Chart
August 17, 2015

Vice Provost
- Judy Appleton

Faculty Director
- Tom Owens

Executive Director
- Rob Scott

Advisory Boards
- Ithaca & NYC

Auburn Coordinator
- Kyri Murdough

Cayuga Coordinator
- Nicole Peppin
CPEP Organizational Chart
Mellon Foundation Grant Projection
2016-17

Vice Provost
Judy Appleton

Faculty Director
Vacant 7/1/16

Executive Director
Rob Scott

Academic Director
Opening 2016

Five Points Coordinator
Opening 2016

Auburn Coordinator
Kyri Murdough

Cayuga Coordinator
Nicole Peppin

Elmira Coordinator
Opening 2017

Advisory Boards
Ithaca & NYC

Administrative Assistant
Opening 2015