

Educational Policy Committee
November 28, 2012

Present: Professors Lohn, Stiadle, and Tabrizi, Dean Speaker, and student representative Jeremiah Miller.

The meeting came to order at about 10:37am. Minutes of the November 14 meeting were unanimously approved.

Dean Speaker will circulate a draft report for next week's faculty meeting by e-mail.

The Committee resumed discussion of values, responsibilities, and goals, focusing primarily on values with the idea that some values should actually be categorized as responsibilities and *vice versa*, that some values might be redundant, and that clarification of some values is needed.

The group considered what is meant by the value "respect," since the term can mean so many different things. The Committee decided to omit "respect" and retain the description after it, namely "an awareness and sensitivity to differences that encourages open-mindedness and responsible action." The broad term "development" might similarly be replaced with its description, "continuing emotional, intellectual, and social development that involves self-reflection and continual adaptation."

Consideration next turned to "innovation" as a value. What does it mean? Should it be replaced by "creative problem-solving"? Is learning separate from development? The description for "learning" is too long, yet the sole terms "learning" or "development" fail to highlight the academic program. Discussion included ideas such as liberal arts, process not product, depth of inquiry, intellectual inquiry, meaningful inquiry, and inquiry that founds learning. The Committee constructed the working phrase "learning founded on challenging intellectual inquiry" to capture the results of the discussion.

The Committee spent the last few minutes beginning a discussion of what is meant by the value "individuals," considering such notions as accessibility, individual attention, uniqueness of individuals, etc.

Homework for next week is to think about what might be missing from the current list of values. A committee member noted that core values ought to affect every part of the institution (faculty, staff, students, alums) or else they are not in fact core.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stiadle
Secretary *pro tempore*