Curricular Review Status Report for Fall 2009

In early September 2009 all department chairs and program directors met with the dean of faculty and associate dean of faculty to review guidelines for a comprehensive review of the curriculum that emerged from the work of the curricular planning working groups during the 2008-09 academic year. Following this discussion with the chairs and directors revised guidelines for both course-level exercises and department/program level reviews were distributed to the faculty.

All faculty were asked to complete reviews for the courses they were currently teaching. The purpose of these reviews is threefold: (i) to reflect on the key learning goals for each class and methods for achieving them; (ii) to communicate these goals to other faculty to facilitate student advising and to share expertise across disciplines; and (iii) to more clearly communicate these goals to students to facilitate the choice of courses in fulfilling area distribution requirements and in pursuing major areas of study.

In a similar fashion, department chairs and program directors were charged with engaging their faculty during the semester in a comprehensive review with an eye toward articulating the defining characteristics of their department or program.

The key components of each curricular review exercise included the following:

**Department/Program Review**
1. Revised mission statements for all departments and programs that articulate the learning goals for student majors and minors.
2. A plan for communicating these goals to current and prospective majors.
3. A plan for assessing student progress in attaining these goals.
4. A statement of progression in the learning goals, outcomes, and engagement opportunities as students move through the major or minor.
5. A statement regarding each department or program’s commitment to the January Program.

**Course Level Review**
1. Clearly articulated learning goals for each course.
2. A plan for communicating these goals to students enrolled in the course.
3. Methods for assessing student progress in attaining these goals.
4. A description of curricular components related to significant opportunities for writing and/or speaking (if any).
5. A statement of how this course fits into the broader learning goals of the department/program.
6. A revised course description that includes a statement of learning goals and outcomes.

The following points summarize the number of submissions to date.

- A total of 178 course-level reviews have been submitted by faculty. Some of these reviews are for course offerings in the spring semester.
- Reviews for slightly more than 51% of the courses offered during the fall 2009 semester have been submitted.¹
- 22 department/program level reviews have been completed, representing just over 60% of the 35 programs or departments at Colby.

¹Fall 2009 courses include experimental offerings and courses taught by visiting instructors.