

Task Force on Review of All-College Distribution Requirements

March 30, 2016, 4:30-5:30pm, Diamond 146

Attending: Paul Greenwood (chair), Lori Kletzer, Dave Angelini (taking notes), Stephanie Taylor, Margaret McFadden, Valerie Dionne, Keith Peterson, Raffael Scheck, Laura Saltz, Bevin Engman

Summary

The task force met to discuss 1) the list of schools that might be used in comparison to Colby's distribution requirements, 2) the characteristics and merits of a first-year seminar, 3) input from the last faculty retreat, and 4) how to proceed toward the 2016 Retreat. Several schools were suggested and shared with the group. It was generally agreed that before an in-depth review of a smaller group of schools, a set of core characteristics should be identified. Comparison schools should then be selected as potential models based on their concurrence with those characteristics. The consensus was that first year seminars or some sort of common student experience, integrating intellectual and social aspects, might lead to a positive campus community. Several people highlighted the need to think about how requirements might be distributed across a student's time at Colby. Finally, the group discussed the need to think carefully about how best to solicit broader faculty input on these issues at the 2016 faculty retreat.