

Task Force on Review of All-College Distribution Requirements

April 7, 2016, 4:15-5:15pm, Diamond 146

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

Summary

The Task Force discussed 1) the Mission and Precepts of Colby College, which is the initial charge of the Task Force, and 2) the “coded” list of notes from the May 2015 faculty retreat with an eye toward understanding some of the elements of the distribution requirements the faculty as a whole find most compelling. The Precepts may be aspirational and there is not a one-to-one correspondence with our current distribution requirements. There was some discussion about how the Precepts were generated, so we will look into the history of those for our next meeting. There was some discussion about how the Precepts can be condensed into a statement of values and skills, but there are some omissions (e.g., interdisciplinarity). There was some consensus that the specific precepts do not adequately elaborate the general mission statement. We began our conversation about the notes from the 2015 retreat. The sophistication of the conversation at the retreat was pretty high, so we may be able to take that information and present specific models for discussion at the upcoming (2016) retreat. We will continue this discussion at our next meeting.