COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Chairs, Alberto Bianchi (fall 2015), Donna Kerner (spring 2016)
Members:
Avi Ashika ’16
Jani Benoit
Linda Eisenmann
Talitha Espiritu (fall 2015)
John Gildea
Dennis Hanno
Steven Kimball ’18
Janice Sklensky
Meg Kirkpatrick (non-voting)
James Mancall (Recording Secretary)

The Committee met twenty-one times during academic year 2015-16

^Course Approval Applications: The committee approved nineteen new course proposals (six in the social sciences, five in the arts, seven in the humanities, and one in Sci/Math/CS).

^Connections Proposals: three new proposals for connections were approved and four proposals to amend an existing connection were approved. Three late student-initiated connections were approved.

^Area Designation Requests for Courses: seven area designations were approved for courses and four requests by students to apply an area designation to a course were approved

^Program Changes to a Major: The committee reviewed and approved proposed changes to the Sociology major. Additionally, Karen McCormack, chair of the Sociology Department joined the committee to discuss the results of the Department’s alumnae/I survey conducted in preparation for the external review. The committee also reviewed materials, met with the chair, Touba Ghadessi, and approved changes to the Art History Major.

^Procedural Issues:
*Guidelines for faculty in submitting forms and petitions to the Educational Policy Committee (the chair drafted a set of guidelines and the members suggested Revisions. These will be posted on the Provosts webpage

*Revisions to forms for student-initiated connections (the committee reviewed suggestions for revising the form from the Chair of the AdHoc Committee on Connections, Chris KHALBERG.
*Late submissions for student-initiated connections: the full committee will review the rationale presented by the student for the late submission. If accepted the committee will pass along the proposal to the Student-Initiated Connections Sub-committee

*Cross-listed courses: the committee approved the Psychology Department’s current policy of listing only the home department in the course schedule for registration. The committee also reviewed the English department’s request to change the subject designation for some FNMS courses. It was decided that the model to follow in this case was that of other interdisciplinary majors where the introductory course and a theory and/or methods course, and a senior capstone course would be listed with the subject heading of the interdisciplinary major and the other courses would be listed under home departments.

*Staffing of Sub-committees of the Educational Policy Committee: the committee discussed how sub-committees are staffed and what the policy is for appointment with the chair of COCA. It was agreed that it was desirable for there to be periodic turnover of faculty members and that the function of the sub-committees be subject to annual review

*Changes to the Bhutan Program grading policy: the committee approved the suggestion of the Bhutan Program Advisory Committee that the one course our students take at Royal Thimpu College should be graded collaboratively by the RTC course instructor and the Wheaton Faculty Resident Director, with the RD submitting the final course grade to the registrar for a regular letter grade.

*Cancellation of courses in a connection: increasing cancellation of courses in a connection can pose problems for seniors who were counting on a course to fulfill a connection. The committee recommended that under such circumstances students could pursue one of two alternatives: propose a connection with a course that they are currently taking or propose a connection with a course they have taken in the previous semester. Juniors who might also run into this problem will be advised on a case by case basis.

*FYS requirement: students who have completed a semester at Wheaton or at another college and maintained a GPA of 2.5 will have the option of enrolling in an FYS. Students who do not meet these requirements will be required to take an FYS.

^Curriculum Review: The committee spent most of its time and energy this year focused on envisioning and designing the first phases of the curriculum review. In fall of 2015, the committee

*Met with members of the Advisory Committee and the Provost’s Advisory Committee, as well as the past co-chairs of the previous (2001) curriculum review,
Kersti Yllo and John Kricher, to share ideas about organizing a curriculum review and to think about the timing of such a review;

*Designed a survey for faculty to gauge interest in a curriculum review in general and delineating areas of interest and goals. The committee then analyzed the results and determined that there was sufficient interest to move ahead and distilled from the results that there were several key areas that the faculty felt needed attention;

*Formulated a set of faculty focus groups to discuss the areas of interest from the survey. These focus groups met during the latter part of the semester;

*Analyzed feedback from the focus groups and used this to define themes for the January Curriculum Review Retreat;

*Planned the program for the retreat and facilitated faculty break out groups;

In spring of 2016 the committee,

*Discussed the role that the Educational Policy Committee ought to play in directing the review (alone or in conjunction with an elected Ad Hoc Steering Committee) and proposed this for a vote before the faculty at the retreat

*Reviewed the January retreat and decided that the Curriculum Review Steering Committee should be a sub-committee of Ed Pol. One member should serve on both. After the elections it was agreed that Jani Benoit would serve as the Ed Pol liaison and present Steering Committee materials on the floor of the faculty. Scott Gelber will chair the Steering Committee.

*Discussed the charge to the Steering Committee

*Decided on a May workshop. The committee projected a May 2017 vote on the new curriculum.

*Convened the faculty working groups during the March faculty meeting so that members could discuss interests, decide on a convener and meeting times.

*The Steering Committee informed Ed Pol that it asked COCA to allow it to convene a meeting of the whole at the end of the May faculty meeting to discuss the role of staff and students in the curriculum review and the role of the Steering Committee during the summer months.