

May 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Dean Joe Urgo
Dean Pat Reynolds
From: Committee on Academic Policy
Re: Allocation Recommendations.

The CAP makes the following recommendations for the allocation of two term positions, each to be effective July 1, 2011, each for up to a four-year term. Both of the term positions to be allocated are currently (through June 30, 2011) housed in the Chinese program in the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department.

We received allocation requests from Chinese (for two term positions), Communication, Comparative Literature, Environmental Studies, Japanese, and Latin American Studies. (The request from Japanese was withdrawn prior to our final deliberations.)

The recommendations of the CAP are:

- To return one of the term positions to the program in Chinese for four years, and
- To allocate the other term position to Latin American Studies for up to four years, unless there is an earlier vacancy in the Government department.

The details of our recommendations are as follows, by department or program:

CHINESE:

The program in Chinese has requested the allocation of two term positions. The CAP recommends the allocation of one term position to Chinese. Our recommendation is based on our judgment of the appropriate size of the faculty in Chinese at Hamilton, current enrollment trends, ACC resources, and our concerns about how the number of courses effectively required of students in the concentration impinges on the breadth of their coursework at Hamilton. It is important to note that around 90 percent of Chinese concentrators participate in the ACC program, and that the teaching resources and curriculum of the ACC in China must therefore be considered along with resources at Hamilton. Additionally, CAP recommends careful examination of the role of the Chinese program and faculty in the college-wide curriculum, on the occasion of a departmental review within the next two years.

COMMUNICATION:

The Communication Department has requested the allocation of a term position. The CAP does not recommend the allocation of a position to Communication. We judge the current continuing allocation in the department of two FTEs to be sufficient for the program at Hamilton College.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE:

The department of Comparative Literature has requested the allocation of a term position. Given the current resources of the college, we cannot support an allocation to the department of Comparative Literature. However, the CAP sees the value of transnational studies at the college, and recognizes the strong argument for making a hire in this area. In the near term, the CAP notes that there are potential opportunities related to the Asian Studies and Mellon postdoctoral positions that might be used to bring expertise in transnational studies to the college.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES:

The program in Environmental Studies has requested the allocation of a term position. The proposal would recruit a visitor to oversee the program in place of the current director. The CAP does not recommend the allocation of this position to Environmental Studies. In our view, the Environmental Studies program is most appropriately directed by a tenured faculty member in one of the participating departments, who is already well familiar with the program, the college, and our students. Thus, we recommend that the program further explore how the chair of the program might rotate among tenured faculty within or across departments.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES:

The program in Latin American Studies has requested the allocation of a term position in the area of Latin American Politics. The CAP recommends the allocation of a term position to Government in this area, in recognition of the needs in this area of the curriculum.

We also recognize that in the near term the Government department is currently well staffed; for this reason, last year the CAP declined to recommend an allocation to Government, and recommended that the department seek to fill its first available vacancy in an area related to Latin America. A year later, we see no such vacancy on the horizon. Nevertheless, the need persists and is exacerbated by Dennis Gilbert's upcoming leave. Therefore, even though the Government Department is currently well staffed, we recommend the allocation of this term position, with the understanding that if there should be a tenure-track vacancy during its term, the department will seek a tenure-track position in Latin American Politics, in exchange for returning the vacated term position to the allocation pool.

Respectfully submitted,

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