COMMITTEE FOR CURRICULAR AND ACADEMIC PLANNING
Annual Report 2006-2007

CAP's year consisted of major developments of the college's curriculum, some impasses and some significant issues that were brought to the attention of the faculty. This report covers the following topics:

- **CAP Action on New/Modified programs, Five Year Reviews etc.**
- **CAP Action on Faculty Lines**
- **CAP Action on New Undergraduate and Masters Degree Options**
- **Issues of Academic Reorganization**
- **Resource Issues**
- **New At Large Members of CAP**

CAP Action on New/Modified programs, Five Year Reviews etc.

CAP passed and recommended to the Senate which also passed a change of name and structure for the English Department (formerly English Language Studies) and the Politics, Economics and Law Department (formerly Politics Economics and Society.) Both departments reflected changes in curricular intent deemed beneficial to the liberal arts and the college curriculum as a whole.

Four Five Year Reviews were scheduled for 2006-7 and a fifth by Sociology, scheduled two years ago. came up for discussion.

(1) **American Studies/Media and Communications.** The Five Year review was completed in May coinciding with an outside evaluation. It was submitted to CAP in September and accepted. CAP underscored the need for new lines particularly in Media and Communications.

In order to explain the next Five Year reviews, a little history is necessary. By 2004, the Humanities and Languages Department (formerly Comparative Humanities and Modern Languages) incorporated English Language Studies. In 2006, Modern Languages became a separate department and English Language Studies soon became a separate department, changing its name to the English Department. Therefore, it was decided that the three separate departments would submit individual Five Year reviews to CAP.

(2) The English Department The English Department's Five Year Review with outside evaluations was submitted to CAP in April, 2007 and accepted. CAP commented favorably on the clarity of the curriculum and structure of the new English Department.

(3) Modern Languages. The Five Year Review submitted by Modern Languages was an interim report. CAP decided not to act on this until a full Five Year review was submitted in the fall of 2007.

(4) History and Philosophy. In the summer of 2006, Provost O'Sullivan changed the name of the Humanities Department to History and Philosophy, although the department would continue to offer its old degrees in Comparative Humanities and Philosophy and Religion. He also added Social Studies Adolescent Education. (see Academic Reorganization) Judith Walsh, then Department Chair, wrote to CAP on Sept. 16, 2006, promising reviews of the Philosophy/Religion degree in Fall 2006 and of the Comparative Humanities degree in Fall 2007, by which time, she stated, "we will have decided whether and/or how to reconfigure it." The Cap Committee sent a request for a Five Year review of both degrees on October 13. To date, the CAP Committee has not received a Five Year review of either of this department's degrees and remains stymied as to what to do about this problem. CAP has never received a new degree proposal for the History and Philosophy Department as well.

(5) The Sociology Department. The Sociology Department had submitted a Five Year review in June 2005 , but in 2006 CAP had several questions concerning the review and sent a detailed letter requesting clarification. The SY review had not followed the SUNY Faculty Senate

guidelines in preparing the review and CAP decided that it could not accept the review as written and wrote a long memo outlining issues the review should address. In February and May 2007 CAP received responses to its original letter and to a follow up letter. Members felt that CAP's questions had not been fully answered in either letters. The Committee decided to wait until Fall 2007 to renegotiate SY's Five Year Review.

CAP Action on Faculty Lines

Following customary procedures CAP solicited line requests from all college departments (September 12 due October 13.) The committee received nineteen requests for new and replacement lines all from the Arts and Science, none from the School of Business or Education. Some of these requests had been submitted more than three times to CAP. At its November meeting CAP prioritized these requests in a probing and searching manner, seeking to sustain and expand liberal arts offerings at the college. In addition, CAP added a line not requested, a geography line to be placed in Politics Economics and Law .CAP used the rankings of High Priority, Highly Desirable for Development and Expansion, and Desirable to determine what the college's Arts and Sciences most needed

CAP forwarded these priorities to the Provost in December arguing that, "Over the last 5 years, there has been little or no net growth in Arts and Sciences while there have been substantial increases in the Schools of Business and Education, necessary to establish a strong graduate Business program and for NCATE accreditation. Now that these programs are on a firmer footing it is necessary to turn back to Art's and Sciences so that this curriculum—the very basis for the College's growth--will not atrophy, with negative results for the entire College."

The Committee invited the Provost to its first meeting in February and indicated that he agreed with the lines in the High Priority ranking and would proceed to secure funding for them. To date, none of these line requests have been funded. An old impasse, even though the process was improved, remains.

CAP Action on New Undergraduate and Masters Degree Options

In December, after discussion, CAP approved and sent to the Senate resolutions concerning new undergraduate initiatives: a Bachelor of Music, a joint degree offered by SUNY/Old Westbury and the Long Island Conservatory: a Bachelor of Science/D.O., a joint degree offered by SUNY/Old Westbury and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine at NYIT: and a minor in French offered by Modern Languages. These resolutions passed.

At CAP's February 2nd meeting a Masters of Science Degree in Mental Health Counseling proposed by the Psychology Department was approved and sent to the Senate for ratification.

In April CAP approved letters of intent for MAT degree in Biology, Chemistry, English, Math, Social Studies, and Spanish and. MSEd. degrees in Literacy and Special Education. While members approved the idea of offering these degrees, there was concern about whether funding for new lines would be available and, if not, whether implementing the programs would siphon off resources from undergraduate teaching. It was decided to give only provisional support and to revisit the issue at the next stage of the approval process, the submission of detailed proposals for the degrees.

The CAP resolution to the Senate stated that, "That the Senate approve the Letters of Intent for MSEd. (4 degrees) and MAT (6 degrees) programs, contingent on Administration obtaining new funding, and

That CAP is charged with reporting back to the Senate at the time of the submission of Proposals for these degrees on whether funding has been secured for the MSEd. and MAT programs as described in the Letters of Intent."

The Senate passed this resolution without dissent.

Issues of Academic Reorganization

In July of last summer Provost O'Sullivan created the History and Philosophy Department which included the two degree programs formerly in Humanities: Comparative Humanities and Philosophy and Religion. The new Department also " housed" the Social Studies Adolescence Education degree, which had been an interdisciplinary program, established by four departments: American Studies, Humanities ad Language, Politics, Economics and Society and Teacher Education. CAP was not consulted even though the BY-Laws state that, "No changes in degree programs may be implemented without approval of the Committee" (By-Laws, CAP 1.a), which in turn refers such changes to the Senate. This unilateral action crated two fundamental concerns for the curriculum and in November the Faculty Senate, after meeting with CAP and members of the affected departments. passed a resolution creating a task force to make recommendations to CAP and the Faculty Senate on the following issues.

- **The Role of Humanities**

  The creation of a History and Philosophy Department calls into question the place of Humanities in the college curriculum, particularly in terms of major courses, The Freshman Year Program and General Education offerings. The Comparative Humanities degree is as old as the college and was one of its mainstays. How will these courses be maintained within a History and Philosophy context and will they be discontinued? Will the courses in culture be subsumed by history or will they keep their original curricular intent?

  One solution offered by the Task Force was to create a degree in World History and Culture, which would retain a central focus in the Humanities. Although this was proposed at a meeting in January, CAP has yet to hear back from the History and Philosophy Department. In fact, CAP has yet to receive a proposal from that department delineating any restructuring of the curriculum or any review of its offerings. This is a major impasse and affects the liberal arts as a whole.

- **Social Studies Adolescent Education**

  The housing of Social Studies in History and Philosophy raises other issues. The overwhelming numbers of social studies majors choose to take American Studies courses after completing the core courses. This

means that the bulk of their courses and advising comes from the American Studies Department. Now they are placed within a department that does not teach or advise them. The explanation for this shift by the Provost was to give History and Philosophy majors and therefore, a base. This, in turn, creates a complex situation for students who are bureaucratically housed in one program and taught by another. The Provost has, to date, been implacable in his refusal to even discuss the ramifications of his actions or to listen to remedies.

The decision by Carl Mirra, (AS), coordinator to leave Old Westbury this summer only exacerbates the problem. Provost O'Sullivan in July wrote to the Chair of American Studies that he intended to take Carl Mira's line and make it a joint appointment between Teacher Education and History and Philosophy. This not only violated CAP's role in line allocations, (see Appendix 1) but also leaves American Studies still with the bulk of the students and no one with expertise in the curriculum to teach and advise them.

- **Resource Issues**

In March the chair of CAP wrote the following memo to the Provost, which is a succinct summary of the critical issues of resources at Old Westbury

March 14, 2007
While attending the Task Force on Masters last Thursday, several issues regarding resources kept haunting my mind.

As the Chair of the CAP Committee this year and Co-Chair last year, I presided over annual by-laws mandated procedures: the requests from Departments concerning new lines and replacement lines. The committee then ranks these requests and sends a list to you. You then come to CAP and we have a discussion where you indicate which lines will be given to areas in dire need. Some of the requests have been submitted three or four time every year. While there was agreement between CAP and yourself, not one new line in the Liberal Arts has been allowed to be filled, despite our agreements. This cripples the efforts of liberal arts programs to grow, accommodate students and enhance the curriculum. The question is why.

This has meant that there has been a rapid increase in the use of adjuncts up to nearly 45%. This hurts the college and its curriculum in a number of ways. Adjuncts can't play a role in the development of new courses, the advising of students, expanding the curriculum or serving on program or college committees. Their use further undermines the quality of education that the college offers its students, not to mention faculty morale.

The new graduate programs only exacerbate this tendency. Most program proposals place full-time faculty in graduate courses, leaving the undergraduate program to even more adjuncts. How can an undergraduate college incorporate new graduate programs without a major decline in undergraduate offerings?

The answer is new resources and it is up to the administration to find them.

New At Large Members of CAP

The work of the CAP Committee this year was seriously undermined by the fact that there had been a mandated By-Law reduction in the number of its members from nine to six. This was further complicated by the fact the CAP representatives were now elected by schools (plus one at-large) and that the School of Business representative did not attend a single meeting.

The Committee asked the Faculty Senate to enlarge the number of faculty serving on the Committee to nine with three places reserved for school representatives. The Faculty Senate agreed to eight members and they were duly elected this summer.

Elizabeth Ewen
CAP Chair, 2006-07

Appendix One

To: Patrick O'Sullivan, Provost/AVP
From: Elizabeth Ewen, Chair, CAP Committee

Re: Line Decisions
Date: July 23, 2007

Professor Rosayln Baxandall forwarded to me a memo of yours in which you state," While I haven't decided yet, the high likelihood is, the new hire in Social Studies to replace Carl Mirra will be principally a School of Education line with a joint appointment in History & Philosophy. "

As you are aware, all vacated lines in the college revert to the CAP Committee and then, CAP makes a recommendation to the AVP. This is a consultative process between interested parties, CAP and Academic Affairs. Yet in your memo, there in no mention of this process and it appears as if you are acting alone.

Please explain this lack of process. I would appreciate your assurance that, barring extraordinary circumstances that you would explain to CAP, you will abide by CAP's recommendation.

As you are also aware, the Social Studies curriculum was established as an interdisciplinary one, with four departments participating in its offerings. As such the CAP Committee and the Faculty Senate approved of this and established how this interdisciplinary department would function including hiring. This too was overlooked in your memo.

Please clarify these issues and elaborate what the academic and administrative credentials and functions such a new faculty would have, particularly since the overwhelming majority of Social Studies students choose, after they finish their core, courses, American Studies as their concentration.