The Curriculum and Education Policy Committee reviewed the Classical Studies Program on October 11 and 25, 2012. Dr. Joel Mann attended the October 11 meeting and provided additional insight and clarification to the program’s written report.

Type of Program Review: Year One Report: Statement of Program Mission, Vision, Goals, Data, and Year One Action Steps

General Remarks and Recommendations

There is no doubt among CEPC members that a vibrant Classical Studies program is central to a proper implementation of the College’s mission. However, the program faces an emergency situation with respect to its staffing. The Committee finds that this program is not sustainable in its current form with its current staffing resources. This situation would be ameliorated with the hiring of an additional SNC faculty member in any one of several disciplines who would teach both Greek and Latin as part of his or her regular load, along with other courses in the program. In the absence of such a hire, the members of the CEPC strongly urges that the Classical Studies Advisory Committee come up with an alternative program that would be viable given current resourcing levels. In addition, the members of the CEPC recommend that a 100-level course intended for the Core Curriculum be devised and offered in order to attract more students at an earlier point in their College experience.

The Committee especially wants to recognize those faculty members contributing to Classical Studies program for their dedicated efforts to keep it viable in the face of very challenging conditions.

Comments on Stated Mission:

The Committee strongly agrees with the Program that its statement on its Mission’s relevance and importance to St. Norbert College is thorough and convincing. One of the Program’s essential reasons for existence and support is that a Classical Studies program helps shape and define a College that values both the Catholic Intellectual (especially Norbertine) Tradition and the Liberal Arts Tradition. A 100-level course in the Core would provide broader student access to these themes, and would enhance the visibility and impact of the program.
**Comments on Strategic Planning and Program Vision:**

The Committee acknowledges the program review's contention that a new hire is necessary to keep the program viable. However, the Committee is deeply concerned that intentions to strengthen the minor and eventually develop a major in Classical and Medieval Studies, enriched course offerings, and higher student enrollment are premature given the staffing levels that are likely to prevail for the foreseeable future. That said, the CEPC believes that it would be more realistic to consider distinct opportunities for expansion by linking Latin and Greek to the language proficiency requirements, and expanding the role of Classical Studies in the Core Curriculum and the Master of Liberal Studies program. This would put us more in range of our peer and aspirant institutions which offer such opportunities for their students. This vision would require additional resources from the College—the recent departures of key faculty, persistently low enrollments, and the already overcommitted obligations of other Classical Studies faculty to other disciplines and areas is a significant challenge to this attainment of this goal.

**Comments on Goals and Action Steps:**

CEPC members agree that the most important goal for the program is for the College to hire a full-time, tenure-track, to teach both Greek and Latin who is also a qualified Classicist (Goal #1 in the Program Review). Languages are the cornerstone of this program, and the current roster of faculty no longer has such a person. The committee sees the other goals and action steps indicated in the Review as logical and defensible, but highly problematic given the current limits on faculty and resources. Specifically, members of the CEPC believe that creation of a Classics major is not realistic in the foreseeable future, even with an additional hire. In fact, the Committee is greatly concerned that in its current state and without addressing staffing issues, the Classical Studies program as it now stands is in jeopardy.

**Comments on Program Curriculum and Assessment:**

The Committee sees the curriculum of the program minor as appropriate. It also, however, notes that in order to broaden the programs base and heighten its visibility, that more attempts be made to link, cross-list, or otherwise incorporate its courses into other programs and the Core Curriculum. Expanding the number and content of Classical Studies courses would be necessary to grow a major, and the ability to make these courses available and attractive to a larger number and wider range of students would assist in this process. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness responded positively to all the questions posed about the existence, quality, and appropriateness of program review assessment data, so the program’s current assessment plan is sufficient. The committee encourages the program to continuously consider and when necessary revise student proficiency assessments for language and other program courses, employing both internally and externally developed instruments as appropriate.
Next Stage: Year Two Report:

For the program’s report to this committee in Fall 2013, the CEPC would like the committee to show evidence of its efforts to hire the full-time tenure track Classicist it obviously needs. The outcome of that effort would then affect the content of the rest of the report: what the program would intend to do in the absence of such a hire--how would it then address the viability of the program itself--and what it would do should such a hire be made. The Committee would also like the program to identify and discuss efforts to broaden the visibility and appeal of Classical Studies to the wider campus community, and describe any effects such efforts may have on program enrollment and curriculum development leading to a possible major in Classical and Medieval Studies. The Year Two report should also track any changes in enrollments in the program and its courses.