ESP Curricular Review

Steve Cohen <sc32@sipa.columbia.edu>

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To: Steve Cohen <sc32@columbia.edu>

Cc: Georgios Sarrinikolaou <gsarrinikolaou@ei.columbia.edu>; Stephanie Hoyt <sah2239@sipa.columbia.edu>

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to inform you of the curricular review that we are undertaking in the MPA in Environmental Science and Policy program in order to better integrate equity and environmental justice concerns in the curriculum. As part of the review, we will be asking all instructors to consider the following.

1. Specific additions or changes across the aspects with which any course operates, including: readings/reading discussions, field trips, case studies, guest lecturers/discussants of student work, project topics, and partnerships; and
2. That definitions of equity and inclusion are dependent upon context. American-raised students may reflect on the concepts relative to a national experience of race and racial structures; whereas International students will want to include the legacy of colonialism. Likewise, each discipline will have its own history of racial assumptions and underpinnings. An obvious example is the idea of the "primitive" in anthropology. Including in your considerations these larger histories may lead to unexpected and relevant insights.

To ensure that the review is robust, I am inviting you to discuss these considerations in small groups of three instructors, plus one or two student or alumni volunteers. We will organize the groups so that they include faculty who teach related courses.

As a first step in this process, I would like to ask you to confirm your participation in this review process by responding to this email by Tuesday, October 5th.

Best,
Steve

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