Critical Thinking Committee Minutes for the 10/12/2016 teleconference:

Attending: David Gribbin, Val Czerny, Courtney Joiner, Dee McKinney, Ren Denton, Mary Waalkes

David Gribbin introduced Dee McKinney as the Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning who will fill the final slot in our committee. David Strickland was scheduled to join us but was not able to make it.

David Gribbin received a go ahead from Angie Williams for the Friday, September 29, 2017 date for the Critical Thinking Conference. He also checked Dr. Boehmer’s schedule and learned that it is clear at this time, which may mean that Dr. Boehmer will be available to open or close the conference.

Val Czerny asked Dr. Palumbo if we could combine efforts regarding the book for convocation, but he suggested that our audiences are very different, and have different purposes. Val said she would send information to Dee on the theme for the conference, relating our topics to nature and biomimicry. David pointed out that the minutes from our last meeting contain a link to some of this information.

Val stated that Pat Homer is interested in presenting at the conference. Val read a portion of Gerard Puccio’s book, *The Creative Thinker’s Toolkit*, that spoke of looking to nature for inspiration in design and problem solving. Mary Waalkes will contact Alan Brasher to see if he will present something on the American Transcendentalists at the conference.

David said that he would work with Angie Williams regarding a time line for the conference. Courtney Joiner added that we need to work on a call for proposals. Val agreed to write the text for this, and send it to Kaitlyn Moore. We agreed that the Swainsboro campus would be the best site for the conference. Ren suggested that we send out the call for proposals at the end of this semester, and twice in the spring. After some discussion, we agreed to send the first call out in the week following Thanksgiving, with follow up reminders in the spring and summer.

Dee McKinney suggested that we get the word out at conferences, and Val encouraged the committee to contact people we know who might be interested in attending and/or presenting. She said she will ask Kaitlyn Moore to start working on a flier and on a website publication for the conference. Courtney thought having fliers would be useful to put on tables at conferences.

Courtney stated that she talked with David Strickland who would like to tie in critical thinking with more faculty presence as to the CATS class.

Ren asked if we could encourage department deans to consider participation and attendance at the Critical Thinking Conference as faculty service to the school, and to encourage faculty to be more active in attending and presenting. David agreed and will discuss this with the deans.

Val thought we should clarify on the website and flier that our audience consists of faculty, students, and independent scholars. Mary Waalkes asked if we want to encourage undergraduate research. Dee acknowledged that this is a trend in higher education, and David said that biology majors have been doing this already. Val has also worked with a student presentation, and in the past Lindy brought students to present at the conference. We agreed that we want to include more student presentations. Courtney mentioned that we can discuss later whether we will need a review committee regarding proposals.
Val asked about what information we should include about lunch. After some discussion, we agreed to charge adults $10 for the lunch, while presenters and students will not have to pay for lunch. We talked about collecting a registration fee, but past experience indicated that this could be a quagmire when dealing with the Business Office. David said that he would talk with Elizabeth Gilmer regarding whether the Foundation will pay for lunches and possibly provide funds for prizes and honorariums. He will also talk with Angie and the Business Office regarding the lunch and processing funds. We agreed to ask for the same lunch as last year. Mary Waalkes suggested we also ask about coffee and light refreshments. Courtney will prepare a list to give to Angie.

We set our next meeting for Wednesday, November 2, at 11 am. We will invite David Strickland to talk about his ideas at the next meeting.

Mary Waalkes
October 12, 2016