

Liaison Report: E Focus Board, May 13, 2008
GEC Liaison: Carolyn Stephenson

The Contemporary Ethical Issues Focus Board held three meetings during the semester, 1/15, 2/14, and 4/30, with the remainder of its work done by email. Board members included Roger Babcock (Chair), Dian Dooley, Zoe Hammatt, Jonathan Okamura, and John Zuern. During the year, the Board reviewed 66 proposals, requesting additional information from approximately 25 applicants, and ultimately approving 55 proposals. 30 of these were approved during the Spring 2008 semester.

The Board also held a Workshop January 23, 2008 to help clarify proposal requirements and share examples of ways to introduce ethical issues into courses in different disciplines. Roughly 10 attended. Another workshop will be offered in Fall 2008 or Spring 2009.

At its April 30 meeting, after hearing some objections to the policy the Board had initiated several years ago of requiring a syllabus for all proposals, the Board made some minor changes to the proposal application form. It agreed to accept either a syllabus or “detailed course description” on new courses, while still requiring a syllabus on renewals. It also changed the wording in question 3 which had been interpreted as requiring identification of a specific ethical framework to guide deliberation. Renewals will continue to be good for 5 years and new approvals for 3 years.