

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
September 28, 2007
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,
Plaza level, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Nadene Davidson, Donna Hoffman, Siobahn Morgan, Jean Neibauer, Frank Thompson, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

I. Call to Order:

After fiddling for a few minutes with her malfunctioning digital recorder, Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M. sans recorder.

II. Approval of Minutes

Davidson moved and Basom seconded the approval of minutes for the September 21, 2007 meeting. A minor typo was pointed out and noted. With the correction, the minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

- A. The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) has begun reviewing curriculum packages from the colleges and has already covered CNS's package. The LACC will get ahead of the curve and review the packages from colleges that relate to the LAC before the UCC discusses them. At this point we need to approve the CNS package, but several others were scheduled to be covered during the meeting.
- B. Morgan reported that she sent a letter to Interim Provost Lubker highlighting the increase in the LAC backlog, and the decrease in student spaces in LAC courses over the past few years. Additional information such as a recommendation for the number of sections for spring 2008 were also included in the letter. Interim Provost Lubker responded that he was aware of the problem and had forwarded the information to the various Deans.
- C. The removal of "g" from the Capstone courses was progressing, and all instructors and departments have been contacted about the policy. The history of the oversight was discussed.

IV. New Business

- A. A copy of the proposed Capstone course 410:152g "*Alternative Health & Complementary Medicine*" was distributed. The course will be discussed at a later meeting.

V. Old Business

- A. Discussion of the proposed Capstone course "Public Policy and Computing Technology" continued. The LACC support the course, but found the additional information that was provided lacked enough structure. In particular, the course requirements for students (instructions for papers, presentations, etc), the criteria for student readings, and the grading criteria needs to be clearly given. The committee recommends that the instructor work on gathering information, and build up the syllabus for the course over the next few

months while he teaches it as an 820:140 offering, and then submit that information to the LACC either later in the fall or early in the spring semester. The LACC also recommends that the course be offered in the spring 2008 semester as a 820:140 offering, but including a line that emphasizes the course topic, ie., “Section 4 has an emphasis on Computing Technology and Public Policy”. Morgan will contact the instructor and outline the LACC recommendations.

B. The curriculum packages from various colleges were discussed.

i. CNS Package

1. Course description and title changes were discussed for several courses and viewed to be appropriate (“no objection” in the official UCC parlance).
2. Two courses had previously been approved by the LACC as new courses (Mathematical Reasoning for Teaching I, Inquiry into Earth Science).
3. Two Capstone courses were also examined and acted on.
 - a. *Obesity & Diabetes: Science, Sociology & Economics* – motion to approve for Capstone made by Davidson, seconded by Thompson. Discussion followed. Motion approved unanimously.
 - b. *Living in our Techno-Social World* – motion to approve for Capstone made by Basom, seconded by Davidson. Discussion followed. Motion approved unanimously.

ii. CBA Package

1. One Capstone course was examined and acted on.
 - a. *Socio-Economic Reality of Central America* – motion to approve for Capstone made by Davidson, seconded by Basom. Discussion followed. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Two new minors were discussed, International Business (for business majors and non-business majors). The *Socio-Economic Reality of Central America* course is an elective in this minor. There was discussion about whether we need to act on such proposals, since the LAC guidelines allow courses in the LAC to count for majors and minors. Some considered it necessary to inform the LACC about changes in majors and minors that might impact LAC courses, while others did not believe that it was necessary. Ultimately the following motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Basom, that in the future the LACC would like to be consulted whenever LAC courses are included in any curriculum package. Motion passed with 3 votes for it, 1 against, 1 abstention. As for the new minors, there were “no objections” to them.

iii. COE Package

1. The Health Education Major –Teaching and Health Education Minor – Teaching both mention the course 410:160 with statements that imply that the course is being dropped from the curriculum. Currently this course is approved for Capstone credit. Morgan has determined through discussions with the instructor of 410:160 (Susan Dobie) that the language in the major and minor restatements was incorrect and the course will continue to be offered in the future. This was the only LAC related item in the COE curriculum package.

iv. CHAFA Package

1. Title and description changes of current courses were deemed to be appropriate and given the “no objection” notation. The LACC found the

restatement for *Religions of the World* to be quite useful, and appreciate the update in the description.

2. The current Capstone course, 650:173, had a Form C – Change to an Existing Course proposal filed to add a “g” to the number. The department has been contacted and told this is not needed, and this proposal should be withdrawn soon.
3. One Capstone course was examined and acted on.
 - a. *Blues and Jazz in African American Film and Literature* – motion to approve made by Basom, seconded by Thompson. Discussion followed. The proposal will have to be revised to exclude the “g” from the course number, and language describing its use for graduate credit (section 2c and 3) will need to be revised/removed. With these changes to the proposal expected to be made, the course was approved for Capstone credit unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the marathon session was wearily made by Davidson, and seconded by Hoffman. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – 8:00 AM, October 5, 2007 – in the SIAC meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan
LAC website: <http://www.uni.edu/vpaa/lac/index.shtml>