

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
October 5, 2007
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,
Plaza level, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Adam Bentley, Nadene Davidson, Donna Hoffman, Siobahn Morgan, Jean Neibauer, Ron O'Meara, Donna Vinton

Guests: Diane Depken (HPELS)
Jerry Smith (Management)

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

II. Capstone Proposal – 410:152g *Alternative Health and Complementary Medicine*

Diane Depken provided background about her course and why it would be appropriate for Capstone credit. The course hadn't been offered for a few years due to staffing, and it is scheduled for spring 08. There were questions about if there were any prerequisites and if non-HPELS students would be prepared for the course. Depken noted that there are no prerequisites and students from diverse backgrounds would likely be interested in the course. Also if the course were to be approved for Capstone credit, the "g" would have to be removed. The amount of writing in the course was also discussed and the course size. Depken thought she would likely reduce the course level to 25-30.

Davidson moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category. O'Meara seconded. Discussion of the course followed. Motion passed unanimously. Morgan will contact the instructor and also make sure the paperwork to remove the "g" is started.

III. LAC Purposes and Goals

Jerry Smith was on hand to reminisce about his days on the LACC and talk about a document that defines the purposes and goals (P&G) of the LAC. Currently there is a "working document" about the P&G of the LAC that has never been approved by the Faculty Senate (this is currently on the LAC website). The Curriculum Taskforce put together by Interim Provost Lubker also inspired the LACC to re-examine the structure of the LAC. This led to the organizing of the LAC Design Team which is currently looking at ways to improve the LAC. Over the years Smith has examined other P&G statements from other sources and has put together a document that has also been worked on by the LAC Design Team. This document was the topic for discussion.

Specific aspects of the document address the need to develop well educated students and to teach them core knowledge and skills. Other areas addressed include "values and dispositions", "expanded horizons" and "understanding of contemporary issues".

Davidson asked how the P&Gs for the LAC may play a part in the accreditation process. Smith noted that generally the Higher Learning Commission looks for improvement and

changes based upon assessments. So just assessing the program isn't enough, but actually working to improve our programs is important in the HLC accreditation process.

Morgan also discussed the P&G statements at our peer institutions as well as the other Regents institutions. In comparison, Morgan noted that our current P&G statement is rather vague and didn't seem to link well with the various categories of the LAC. The proposed P&G statement would be one overarching document for the LAC. There are currently specific statements for each of the categories, and these may need to be changed to reflect the content of an overarching P&G statement.

O'Meara asked if there would be a need for P&G statements for the individual categories. Smith responded that the category specific statements would have more details about how the P&G are being met. Basom noted that the document appears to correspond fairly closely with the current content of the LAC, and Smith mentioned that this document does correspond closely but also expands upon various areas such as the contemporary issues and explicitly mentioning areas such as values and dispositions. Basom also noted that some of the language was a bit negative and it might be better to put a more positive slant into the document. She also noted that there should be language addressing globalization and international issues.

Hoffman asked about the contemporary issues area and why specific issues are listed. Smith responded that the listing was just for the reader to understand what is meant by "contemporary issues". It isn't intended to define these as the only issues, but to give some examples. It is likely that this list could evolve in time. It is also likely that updates could be done in all of the LAC category descriptions on a regular basis.

Baughman asked about the LAC program currently being worked on by the LACDT and if that will be presented to the LACC soon. This will be done at a future meeting of the LACC, likely the October 26 meeting. Comments and suggestions on the P&G document should be sent to jerry.smith@uni.edu before this time, or to Morgan by October 19.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Hoffman moved and Davidson seconded the approval of minutes for the September 28, 2007 meeting. Quite a few errors were found and noted. ☹ With the corrections, the minutes were approved.

V. Announcements

- A. Morgan mentioned that she missed the previous UCC meeting, but did note that in the LACC deliberation of the Math for Teaching I course the LACC recommended that the course be listed in a specific manner. The recommendation was that it be described as an exception to the rules, such as how the CNS major's courses are described in the 4A and 4B categories. She'll make sure this recommendation gets passed on in the curriculum process.
- B. Morgan also noted that the courses that are currently in the catalog and were given Capstone credit by the LACC still need the approval of the Faculty Senate to be "officially" included in the LAC. She has sent information to the instructors about this and has worked at forwarding the necessary documents to the Faculty Senate to be docketed.
- C. At the next LAC meeting the Interim Provost and Associate Provost will be on hand.

- D. Morgan is still slugging away at the various reports that need to be done, so expect those in the future.

VI. New Business

- A. A copy of the New Student Handbook was distributed, so that members of the LACC could see the information that incoming freshmen are given. Neibauer mentioned that information is sent out to departments for updates, and the booklets are put together in time for summer orientation. If anyone notes any errors or has any recommendations, please pass those on to Neibauer.
- B. Bentley also mentioned that October is Energy Awareness month and you should turn off your computer and office lights when you leave.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the session was made by Bentley, and seconded by Davidson. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next Meeting – 8:00 AM, October 12, 2007 – in the SIAC meeting room.

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