

MINUTES  
Liberal Arts Core Committee  
October 19, 2007  
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,  
Plaza level, Maucker Union

Present: Ken Baughman, Adam Bentley, Jerry Caswell, Donna Hoffman, Siobahn Morgan, Ron O'Meara, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Approval of October 12, 2007 Minutes

O'Meara moved and Bentley seconded the approval of minutes for the October 12, 2007 meeting. With a few minor corrections on voting, the minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

- A. Morgan reported on her meetings with various groups. The AAC meeting (Academic Affairs Council) involved a wide range of topics, including section sizes, tenure vs. non-tenure instructors, assessment, backlog etc. Another meeting was with NISG, who asked various questions about the LAC. The students inquired about the possibility of polling the students about their views on the LAC, particularly concerning anything that might be missing. Baughman asked about any concerns raised in either a positive or negative nature about the LAC in either of the meetings. Morgan responded that there were no major issues raised in either a positive or negative perspective. Not unexpectedly the NISG did bring up the question about Personal Wellness in the LAC, and asked about the rumor that it was going to be removed soon. Morgan mentioned she did clarify to NISG that any changes in the LAC don't happen immediately, but take time and require specific procedures. Any changes in the LAC, in particular the removal of an entire category or subcategory, would require careful and lengthy deliberations. Also there would be a time before any major changes would actually go into effect.
- B. Morgan reported on the latest UCC meeting and the courses that were approved at that time. The next meeting covers the CSBS curriculum packages. An issue that came up concerning the new Capstone courses involves the numbering for the courses. Course proposals have included numbers that are specific to departments as well as the generic 010 notation (interdisciplinary). If all Capstone courses were listed under 010 it would be easier for students to find them. Those with departmental numbers typically are for major/minor elective credits, but they could be cross listed under the 010 designation as well. It is also possible to manage the enrollment effectively for sections if spaces were divided between the departmental number and 010.

Baughman moved that any Capstone course with a departmental prefix will also be cross listed with the 010 prefix. He further moved that the number of spaces allocated under the departmental prefix shall not exceed 1/3-1/4 of the total enrollment for the section. Caswell seconded. Discussion followed. There was concern that these were two separate issues. Baughman and Caswell agreed to divide the motion. Discussion of the 010 designation for all Capstone courses continued. The 010 would be added as a cross listing to any new course in the Capstone category that has a departmental number as well as any existing course which previously had a departmental number. Motion passed unanimously. The motion concerning the section size management was withdrawn by Baughman and Caswell.

#### IV. New Business

- A. On October 26, Jerry Smith will be providing an update on the LAC Design Team work.
- B. Morgan will be gone November 9 and, if there is a meeting on that date, Baughman will be acting chair.

#### V. Old Business

##### A. CSBS Curriculum Package

- i. *Democracies* – Hoffman moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category, Bentley seconded. Discussion followed. There was discussion about how the different instructors addressed the topic. Motion passed unanimously.
- ii. *Globalization, Cultural Pluralism and Security* – Hoffman moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category, O’Meara seconded. Discussion followed. There was discussion about the grading criteria in the course. This may be something that could be part of the Capstone management mechanism, to keep instructors aware of Capstone course guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.
- iii. *Science and Pseudoscience: Critiquing the world around you* – O’Meara moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category, Bentley seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.
- iv. *Analysis of Social Issues* – O’Meara moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category, Bentley seconded. Discussion followed. This course is currently under the title of “Analysis of Contemporary Social Issues”. Motion passed unanimously.
- v. *Medicine, Morality and Society* – Bentley moved to approve the course for inclusion into the Capstone category, O’Meara seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

##### B. Interdisciplinary Curriculum Package

- i. Proposals for changes in the course descriptions for 680:124 *China*, 680:125 *India*, 680:127 *Middle East* and 680:137 *Native Central and South America* were discussed. O’Meara moved that we approve the changes, Bentley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting – 8:00 AM, October 26, 2007 – in the SIAC meeting room.

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