

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
February 15, 2008
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,
Plaza level, Maucker Union

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

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M.

II. Approval of February 1, 2008 Minutes

Miraculously the minutes for the previous meeting were error free. Caswell moved to accept the minutes, Baughman seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

A. The Capstone Management Document was discussed again. Morgan had not gotten any further feedback on it from any other groups. Thompson moved to approve the document, Basom seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Baughman asked about the surveys that were previously used during the “experimental” phase of the new model. A student and faculty survey were both used, but the CMD contains only the student survey. Morgan noted that this was during the experiment, and that faculty input would normally be obtained during the regular category review process. Assessment was again discussed. Currently MAPP testing is voluntary, and few instructors are willing to incorporate it into their courses. A mandate for required testing would have to come from the provost’s office, or from a higher authority than the LAC Coordinator. The language was changed to reflect that other standardized tests could be used other than MAPP. Other language was changed to clarify the time scale for the review process (“At least every six years”). After further minor editing, the Capstone Management Document was approved, as amended, unanimously.

B. The LAC Annual Report was brought up again. Basom noted another item that required clarification. Basom moved to approve the report, Thompson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the document, with the noted corrections, was approved unanimously.

C. The LAC Reform Process was a topic at the last Faculty Senate meeting and the review team, Baughman, Hoffman and Thompson, discussed the work that the group has undertaken thus far. The UCC is interested in working with the subcommittee on reforming the processes that impact LAC proposals. Baughman mentioned that a change in the structure of the LAC would be similar to a restatement of a major or minor. A form will be designed specifically for changing the LAC structure. For changing items such as course titles, or descriptions, the current forms can be used, but should include specific instructions for

consultation with the LAC. The subcommittee recommended that the LACC should be part of the early consultation process, before the proposals are forwarded to the college senates. The subcommittee will continue to work on this and will provide some ideas to the LACC in the future.

There was also discussion about how the LAC is reviewed. By incorporating the LAC explicitly in the “curriculum cycle”, it may be possible to make changes in the LAC on a fairly regular basis. Currently LAC categories are reviewed on a 6 year cycle, which tends to be too long of a time scale for a critical examination of the LAC and to implement changes. There is also the tendency for inertia to set in, so that changes are not possible except on very long time scales.

D. Morgan distributed a document that was approved in “Gen. Ed Committee” years ago concerning how committee members should evaluate courses. These were basic guidelines that should be considered when assessing a course that is proposed to be added to the LAC.

E. Morgan asked for final feedback on the LAC/LAS Major/Emphasis/Certificate proposal that was discussed previously. The LACC input on this will be brought to the next UCC meeting. The various problems with the concept were reviewed, and Morgan will bring these issues to the UCC’s attention. The “Honors” concept seemed to be the only idea that was viewed favorably.

F. There was discussion about a recent bill in the state legislature (Senate Study Bill 3160). The “senior year plus” program would allow high school students to take up to 30 credits of college courses before they graduate from high school. Various problems with this bill were discussed.

IV. Announcements

A. Since February 22 is an “Up-Close” day we will not meet next week, but will meet again on the 29th of February.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the session was made by Thompson, and seconded by Davidson. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting – 8:15 AM, February 29, 2008 – in the SIAC meeting room.

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