

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
March 7, 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

Guest: Stephen Gaies, English language and literature

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Capstone Proposal

Stephen Gaies was on hand to discuss his proposed Capstone course “Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Genocide: Case Studies”. For some time there has been faculty providing courses and curriculum support to help students learn about the Holocaust, and that project is now being expanded to shed light on other genocides. The scope of the course was discussed, in terms of the historical extent of genocide, and definitions of genocides. Student projects were also discussed, and how the students’ backgrounds can help shape their projects.

Thompson moved to approve the course for Capstone credit. Basom seconded the motion. For clarification, the course would be offered as an experimental course, and would eventually either be submitted for inclusion into the curriculum (where it would have to be approved by the UCC and the Faculty Senate), or it would be dropped after the “experimental” offerings ended. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LAC Reform Process

Morgan discussed the current status of developing the LAC Reform guidelines. She and Baughman have discussed the process and the feedback from the UCC. This resulted in a reduction of paper work by having the preliminary and final proposal form reduced to a single form, since both forms had originally asked for pretty much the same input. A LAC Reform proposal could be proposed at any time, similar to how a new program can be submitted at any time. Thompson moved for approval of the stream-lined form and the suggested process for LAC Reform, and to have those forwarded to the UCC. Basom seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Baughman should be lauded for his work in getting the form and instructions placed into a clear, and easy to read format. The work of the entire LAC Reform process group is also greatly appreciated. They may be in line for treats in the future, if they play their cards right.

IV. Approval of February 29, 2008 Minutes

The minutes for the February 29, 2008 meeting were discussed. No (obvious) errors were found. Thompson moved that the minutes be approved, Hoffman seconded. Discussion followed. Minutes approved unanimously.

V. Announcements

- A. The summer schedule has a few errors, and those have been dealt with.
- B. A new proposal has come in from computer science that will be dealt with after spring break (due to scheduling of the proposers). The course is being proposed for category 1C. The proposal documents will be sent out after spring break.
- C. Morgan mentioned that she will be meeting with 3 Deans, the Provost, and the Associate Provost to discuss the resources and needs for the fall 2008 semester. There was discussion about the general resources across the University, not just for the 3 colleges that have the largest LAC burden.
- D. Basom mentioned a problem of a student getting bad advice concerning a Non-Western Course taken during a study abroad program. The student was told that the course would qualify for NWC, but the NWC group did not approve the course. There was concern about the source of the error, and how courses from elsewhere are evaluated. It might be a good idea for the LACC or the Coordinator to be consulted on possible LAC courses taken by students that are in the Study Abroad program (since departments are consulted for major credit courses before the students travel abroad). There was also discussion about how there should be clearer notification to students and faculty about which courses count for LAC – such as including it in the computer system when student sign up for a course.
- E. No meeting on March 14.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the session was made by Davidson, and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next Meeting – 8:15 AM, March 28, 2008 – in the SIAC meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan

LAC website: <http://www.uni.edu/vpaa/lac/index.shtml>