

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
October 20, 2006
SIAC Meeting Room, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Jerry Caswell, Cyndi Dunn, Brian Larkin, Siobahn Morgan, Ron O'Meara, Jerry Smith, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

Guests: Susan Koch (Provost's Office) & Jeff Weld (Provost's Office)

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Caswell provided some clarification to the minutes of his comments from last week. This correction was put into the minutes. Baughman moved and Smith seconded the approval of the amended minutes for October 13, 2006. Motion passed.

III Announcements

- A. The faculty Senate will be considering the placement of 780:120 – Latin American Cultures and Civilization into the LAC. This was approved by the LACC in 2005, and the UCC in fall 2006.
- B. No new information from Carol Cooper on her proposal or Jay Lees on his Capstone proposal.
- C. The category 3 review will need a jump start with Baughman and Morgan applying some defibrillators to it.
- D. No further information from Jerry Soneson on the status of the 2A review. He will be contacted for an update. For 2B, committee members were encouraged to look over the report that was previously distributed, and pass along any points that should be emphasized in the LACC report of it.
- E. Capstone sections for spring 2007 are quite numerous, with 39 total sections in the schedule.
- F. Baughman mentioned that Jerry Smith will be giving a presentation on critical thinking on Wednesday, 2:30 in ITTC 125/126.

III Carver Institute Program

Susan Koch and Jeff Weld summarized the results of the Carver Institute Program. First some history – about 3 years ago Susan Koch and former Provost Aaron Podolefsky wrote a grant asking for funding from the Carver Institute for a series of workshops to enhance the quality of teach and leaning in the LAC and to further integrate the use of technology in the LAC. Weld provided an executive summary of the program that was

submitted to Carver in September. The impact of the program was broad in the number of faculty and departments that were touched by it, as well as the range of technology that was introduced to workshop participants. One outcome of these institutes is the creation of several new Capstone Experience courses as a result of the workshops. There was also a greater degree of interdisciplinary interaction that came out of the workshop that manifested itself in a variety of ways, including a home brewing club and some rather strange tuba performances. But there are also more standard academic types of collaborations that are products of these workshops. Material from the workshops is still available on line for the participants to add to and access. There will be final Carver Institute get together to celebrate the successful completion of the workshops and to acknowledge the efforts of the participants (mark your calendar for November 16).

The committee made a series of comments about the quality of the workshops and gave their appreciation for the opportunity for such venues. Various aspects of the workshops, in particular, the interaction between faculty from across the university was considered an important aspect of the workshops. Baughman asked about plans for future workshops. Koch mentioned that it would be good to continue such workshops, and discussing what might be the next step in this direction. Carver doesn't necessarily want to continually support the same program over and over, but would rather have new, innovative projects for future workshops. The form (theme) of the proposals for future institutions has yet to be determined. If the members of the LACC have any suggestions for future Carver proposals, please contact Jeff Weld and Susan Koch about them.

Dunn mentioned that faculty who participate in such workshops should be recognized for their participation in such activities, since they are able to enhance a faculty member's teaching. Faculty who participate give up their time, which they could spend on other normally recognized activities (research or scholarly activity, service, teaching). Koch mentioned that there will be recognition of the participant this fall with letters to their departments indicating their involvement in the institute.

IV Proposals

A. 800:064 – Elementary Probability and Statistics for Bioinformatics. Smith moved and Dunn seconded a motion to approve this course for category 1C. Discussion of the course followed, along the lines of how the course would be available to more students, if they can look beyond the scary course title. Motion passes.

B. 800:0XX – Mathematical Reasoning for Teaching I. The committee discussed the proposal. VanHooreweghe asked about the existence of a GPA requirement for the course. This would prevent entering freshman from taking the course, and would be unlike any other LAC course – since no other LAC course has a GPA requirement. Basom was concerned about the creation of different LAC courses specifically designed for particular majors. Baughman was concerned about the staffing needs for the course and how that might influence the other courses in 1C (since this course has a limited size).

Another option would be to have this course and its follow up serve as a substitution for the LAC 1C requirement for elementary education majors. The mathematics faculty will be asked if they will be interested in changing their proposal, either removing the GPA requirement or having the two new math courses act as a substitute for the LAC mathematics requirement.

C. Capstone – Renewable Energy in Iowa & Beyond. Dunn asked suggested that Enshayan be asked to provide a revised syllabus that included specific grade breakdowns (percentages).

V. Old Business

A. Taskforce volunteers were sought to be part of the group that will look at the curriculum, as outlined by Provost Lubker last week. Morgan and Smith volunteered to serve on the taskforce. Smith mentioned that he has only one more year of service on the LACC, and whether this would impact his membership on the taskforce (since he would not be “representing” the LACC past May 2007). The committee did not find it to be a major concern and believe that Smith will be able to be an effective taskforce member. The LACC also thought that a subcommittee of the LACC could do the work on the redesigning of the LAC, and this subcommittee would report to the LACC, the taskforce and obtain information from the university community at large. Baughman moved that Smith and Morgan be named for the taskforce. O’Meara seconded. Motion passed.

B. Baughman was nominated to serve as a Co-Chair for the LACC by Smith, Basom seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

VI. Adjournment:

O’Meara moved to adjourn; Basom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan