

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
December 1, 2006
SIAC Meeting Room, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Cyndi Dunn, Brian Larkin, Siobahn Morgan, Jean Neibauer, Jerry Smith, Michelle Swanson, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton, + 1 wayward faculty member

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Approval of minutes:

There were (more than) a few typographical errors in the November 17 minutes, which were easily corrected. Smith moved to approve the minutes as amended, Dunn seconded. Motion passed

III. Announcements

- A. Morgan mentioned that she had sent a letter to interim Provost Lubker suggesting the creation of a university-wide LAC teaching award, with a cash prize attached to it. No response so far.
- B. The Faculty Senate approved the placement of 800:064 into category 1C. The mathematics department is going to include in their curriculum package a proposal to change the name of the course to “Introductory Statistics for the Life Sciences”, a much less scary and more descriptive designation.
- C. Morgan will be meeting with some members of the 3A review on Monday to help them with the review process.
- D. The LAC reform subcommittee will meet again December 8. The full LAC committee will not meet again until January 19th.

IV. Capstone Report

The committee started to provide feedback on the current report on the Capstone Experience. Smith mentioned that since the start of the current Capstone model, the strict definition of what is a “Capstone” course and what we have since approved as “Capstone” courses aren’t exactly the same – basically the model for Capstone is broader than what was originally defined. This point should be included in the report along with the original guidelines and syllabus statement.

There was concern that some Faculty Senate members may not view the listing of courses that have been approved by the LACC as fitting in the standard “Capstone” model, particularly if they only consider the titles of the courses. When this is discussed

in the Faculty Senate it may be necessary to explain the rationale for approving certain courses which didn't exactly fit into the guidelines. In the past when a course that didn't fit exactly into the guidelines, but possessing seemingly great value for our students was proposed, the LAC committee has used their judgment of the course's overall quality in determining whether it was appropriate for Capstone or not, rather than strictly interpreting the guidelines.

Vinton mentioned the fact that the new Capstone model promoted faculty collaborations beyond the confines of departmental boundaries, and would further enhance faculty growth and development. Previously Capstone was provided by one college (CNS), but now the courses are taught by faculty from all colleges. This point should also be emphasized in the report. One of the complications of having Capstone spread across the university is the need for monitoring the courses for future program reviews, and that this task will likely fall upon the LAC and/or the LAC coordinator.

The committee members provided additional comments and grammatical corrections to the report. When the report eventually goes to the Faculty Senate, it would be useful to invite the instructors of these courses to that particular senate meeting to provide input and support for the new Capstone model.

V. Other reports

Please pass any useful comments onto Morgan about the other reports including the NWC review report, the Annual Report, and feedback on the Humanities report.

The e-mail from Dr. Enshayan was also discussed. The committee did not think that any actions need be taken by the committee, but Morgan will contact him with further information about his proposal.

VI. Transfer Credit in the LAC

Morgan had met with personnel from the Admissions office concerning how transfer credit is given to courses from community colleges (CC). In particular how are certain CC courses, which have non-LAC UNI equivalents, able to transfer with credit in the LAC. The people who assess transcripts determine what the UNI equivalents for CC (and other university) courses are, and using the guidelines listed on the LAC website, decide if they are LAC appropriate courses. This is usually done without consultations with department or the LACC since there is often a need to evaluate transfer credit quickly – which helps in maintaining good relationships with potential students. There is likely also some pressure to accept as many transfer credits as reasonably possible.

If the LACC would like to remove any of the current transfer courses from the “approved” list for LAC credit, it is possible to do so – nothing is set in granite. Any changes would not go into effect immediately, but would only go into effect in the summer. It was decided that we will keep these things in mind while we re-examine our LAC program and revisit the issue later.

Morgan also distributed a list of the current courses that transfer into UNI as satisfying the Non-Western Cultures requirement. It was noted that many appear to be history courses and not thorough examinations of all aspects of a culture.

VII. Adjournment:

Swanson moved to adjourn, Basom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – December 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan