

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
September 22, 2006
SIAC Meeting Room, Maucker Union

Present: Ken Baughman, Jerry Caswell, Cyndi Dunn, Siobahn Morgan, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton, Jennifer Younie

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Baughman moved and Caswell seconded the approval of the minutes for September 1, 2006. Motion passed.

III. Announcements:

A. The status of the committee was discussed. Representatives from COE, CNS and the Faculty Senate are still not on board, but Cyndi Dunn is in place as the CSBS representative. And Jennifer Younie is on hand as the NISG representative.

B. Morgan reported on discussion at the Faculty Senate Meeting on the possibility of a Liberal Arts Major proposed by Interim Provost Lubker. This is still in the planning stages and may be part of a future LAC meeting.

C. Vinton reported on her committee for Student Outcomes Assessment. She would like to have a representative from the LAC on the committee. We may wait until more LACC members are present and ask again for a volunteer. There were various discussions about assessment, their role in category reviews, technical assistance and assessment websites (www.uni.edu/assessment).

D. Data on the current (Fall 2006) backlog of students was distributed in a graphical format. In general the backlog has not changed significantly from Fall 2005. Various committee members asked for more detailed data, and this will be provided at the next meeting.

E. Morgan mentioned that there are several LAC proposals that will be considered at future meetings. Starting on September 29 there will be guests to the LAC meeting talking about their various proposals, which currently include one 2B proposal, two 1C proposals, and 2 Capstone proposals. Also in a future meeting Interim Provost Lubker would like to talk to the committee. And also Associate Provost Susan Koch would like to address the LAC as well.

F. Morgan reported that at the September 20th meeting of the University Curriculum Committee, there was discussion on a previous LACC action. This concerned the course 780:120 – *Latin American Cultures and Civilizations* which was approved by the LACC as a course in the Non-Western Cultures category. The UCC was concerned about how this would be included in the schedule of classes and whether there were any precedence for inclusion of a course with non-LAC prerequisites (there is with the music major exception for Category 3A). The UCC approved the recommendation of the LACC and Morgan will forward the course information onto the Faculty Senate.

IV. New Business:

A. A proposal for a course to be included in Category 1C was distributed. The course is from the mathematics department and is entitled “Mathematical Reasoning for Teaching I”. This will be part of future meeting once the mathematics faculty have contacted Morgan.

B. Morgan distributed a copy of the draft report for the new Capstone Experience. The various parts of the report were described and some suggestions were made to improve the report. The area of student comments was discussed. The format that was used in the previous report (Spring 05) may be appropriate – though the full report may not go to the Faculty Senate (comments that indicate the course subject are problematic since they may provide information as to the identity of the instructor). It was suggested that the full statistics on majors in each of the new Capstone courses be combined into an overall table. Morgan will do this, as it is a fun statistics task. Morgan also distributed a listing of major data for the current semester.

There was also a discussion of the assessment form. It may be a good idea to add questions, particularly to find out what draws students to particular sections of the new Capstone. This would depend upon the ultimate fate of the Capstone course and may not be acted upon until after those decisions are made.

C. Baughman talked about writing enhanced courses that are outside of the LAC. It has been proposed by some instructors that such courses could fulfill the College Reading and Writing (1A) part of the LAC. Baughman will put together a report on this and present it at a future LAC meeting. In fall 2006, the only courses that “double-dip” in fulfilling 1A as well as another part of the LAC are limited to sections in category 3B (Literature, Philosophy, and Religion). These have very specific enrollment requirements, and these courses have been very well received by incoming students.

V. Old Business

A. There was some discussion of the Non-Western Cultures (2B) report. Morgan mentioned that the NWC report can be forwarded to the Faculty Senate on its own – so we need not wait for the Humanities (2A) report. Caswell wondered about specific course data, and as to whether that could be obtained from the NWC committee. Morgan

will contact Charles Holcombe (acting NWC chair) about this. Morgan will work on the LACC report on the NWC report. There was some discussion about what happens next with the reports, but we'll eventually figure it out. Caswell asked about student outcomes for the courses. Morgan mentioned that the only current University wide assessment of the LAC is in the exit interview questions for graduating seniors. These are general, across the board questions and the May 2006 results may not yet be available.

VII. Adjournment:

Caswell moved to adjourn; Younie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – September 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan