

MINUTES  
Liberal Arts Core Committee  
April 21, 2006  
Lang 115

Present: Baughman, Brown, Davidson, Heston, Morgan, Smith, VanHooreweghe, Vinton

Guest: Dr. Betty DeBerg

I. Call to Order:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Morgan moved and Brown seconded the approval of the minutes for April 7, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements:

There were no announcements.

IV. New Business:

A. Marketing the LAC. Discussion with Dr. Betty DeBerg.

Dr. DeBerg informed the Committee of an interest by the Philosophy and Religion Department in marketing the LAC, to make students more aware of the program's value and importance. She was motivated to do so by feedback from her department's alumni and advisory board: Alumni indicated that they greatly valued their liberal arts education at UNI and encouraged the Philosophy and Religion Department to promote it to current students. DeBerg wanted to coordinate such efforts with the LACC. She passed along a draft "portable statement" on the LAC that her department's faculty would be encouraged to include on syllabi. She also discussed activities that might be undertaken, perhaps with student assistance, to increase the program's visibility on campus.

LACC members were generally supportive of DeBerg's proposal. There's a feeling that the program hasn't been adequately promoted and that it lacks visibility on campus. The importance of having a coordinated effort with a common message and image was stressed.

DeBerg promised to keep the Committee informed of future activities in this regard.

B. Letter of Appreciation.

Responding to VanHooreweghe's suggestion, Smith passed around a letter he'd drafted, which expressed the Committee's appreciation to Dr. Bev Kopper for her years of outstanding service as the LAC Coordinator. The letter was signed by all present and will be forwarded to Dr. Kopper, with copies being provided to the Interim and Associate Provost.

V. Old Business

A. Status Report.

It being the last Committee meeting of the academic year, Smith used the occasion to update the Committee on the status of various matters with which the Committee was involved:

- We are awaiting completion of the Category 2A (Humanities) draft review report, which is late. We expect to receive it early in the fall.
- We are awaiting completion of the Category 2B (Non-Western Cultures) final review report, which is on schedule. We may yet receive it this semester.
- The Category 3 review team has been appointed and charged, so that effort is on schedule.
- A few more Capstone sections have to be evaluated, but that will be completed during the coming week, with the raw data being forwarded for processing shortly thereafter.
- The LACC's data needs have been communicated to the Registrar, along with the request to meet with him for a discussion. Smith will follow-up as necessary.
- It is assumed that a new LAC Coordinator will be appointed by the start of the fall '06 semester.

VI. Other Business:

A. LACC Outlook, 06-07.

In wrapping up this academic year of Committee work, Smith also wanted to offer an outlook regarding major tasks and issues likely to be encountered during the next academic year. These are as follows:

- UNI budget situation/LAC program review. It's likely that the UNI budget situation will motivate an intensive review of the LAC during the coming year, with the intent of reducing program costs, possibly by shortening the core. The Committee wants to insure that a complete range of budget-reduction alternatives are considered, over and beyond those involving the LAC.
- Capstone review. The new Capstone model is scheduled to be reviewed next year, with final action to be taken by the Faculty Senate. This review is likely to be affected by UNI's budget situation and the broader LAC program review.

- Writing enhanced courses. Working with the English Department, the Committee intends to finalize a proposal for writing enhanced courses and forward it to the Faculty Senate for their approval.
- Student outcomes assessment. The Committee will be continuing its efforts to develop an outcomes assessment program that includes in-course and end-of-program activities, as appropriate.
- Category coordinating committees. A major responsibility of the new LAC Coordinator and LACC Chair will be to work with college senates to establish category coordinating committees.
- Data collection and information systems. It is expected that the coming academic year will witness the implementation of information systems that routinely provide the Committee and category coordinating committees with data needed for program management purposes.
- LAC Mission and Goals. Smith and VanHooreweghe will spend some time during the summer collecting existing documents that express the program's mission and goals. In the fall, the Committee will use these to develop a comprehensive, current statement of program purpose and goals that can be submitted to the Faculty Senate for its approval.
- Program Visibility and Marketing. Following on the efforts of the Philosophy and Religion Department, efforts will be made to improve the LAC's visibility among students, faculty, and other constituencies. One possible step is to secure designated office space for the program and LAC Coordinator in the new ITTC Building.

VII. Adjournment:

Davidson moved to adjourn; Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

This was the last meeting of the semester. The time and place of the next meeting will be communicated to LACC members at the start of the fall semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Smith  
Acting Secretary