

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
October 27, 2006
SIAC Meeting Room, Maucker Union

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

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. After a discussion of past Halloween traumas, tricks and treats, the meeting commenced.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Baughman moved and Caswell seconded the approval of the amended minutes for October 20, 2006. Motion passed.

III Announcements

- A. Taskforce volunteers are coming out of the wood work. Nadene Davidson had contacted Morgan about serving on the taskforce, but Morgan had failed to mention that last time. Neibauer would also like to volunteer for the taskforce. Those two names will be forwarded to the Senate. Smith mentioned that the Senate might not be seeking non-faculty members for the taskforce. Neibauer mentioned that sometimes issues come up that weren't foreseen by other during the curriculum process. She or Dave Marchesani from Academic Advising would be willing to serve on the taskforce even in an ex-officio capacity. It is also possible that the taskforce may have consultation sessions with various groups across campus. Vinton also mentioned that she would also like to be involved in the process in the future.
- B. Morgan reported that the Faculty Senate at the October 23 meeting approved the LACC proposal for the listing of 780:120 Latin American Cultures.
- C. Morgan also mentioned that the LAC website is continually updated by Cheryl Nedrow to reflect the changes to the LAC that have gone through and will go through in the future.
- D. No new information from Jay Lees about his "capstone" course has come through, but is expected soon. There was discussion about other courses in the past that were advertised as being available for LAC credit by the Study Abroad program. Morgan will make the point to contact the Study Abroad program in the spring 2007 to have them get new course proposals submitted by that spring or early fall 2007 for summer 2008 courses.

IV New Business

Morgan distributed a draft copy of the 2005-2006 LACC annual report.

V Discussion of proposals

800:0XX – Mathematical Reasoning for Teaching I. Morgan reported that the Mathematics department agreed to remove the GPA requirement from their proposal. Smith moved that the course in this form be approved for Category 1C, O’Meara seconded the motion. Discussion followed. There was some concern about the inclusion of courses into the LAC that were designed for specific majors, rather than students all taking the same general courses. Based upon previous discussions with the mathematics faculty, the content in this course is similar to that in the current LAC 1C course 800:023. There was discussion about the scenario for students who take 800:023 and then become Elementary Education majors – would they have to take this course as well before going on with the next math course in the sequence. Or could there be a 1-credit option, or curriculum package made available to these students who took 800:023 previously – this could help prevent a backlog in the math courses (of students who would have to take two math courses). Should the course be listed in with the other courses of category 1C or should it be presented as a substitution for category 1C?

If students do have to take both courses (because of changing their major), will they get credit for both courses? Since the content for both courses is very similar, awarding students credit for both courses doesn’t seem logical. These concerns will be passed on to the mathematics faculty.

The motion passed with one abstention.

Baughman made the motion that the course NOT be listed with the other courses currently in 1C, but be listed as a substitution for category 1C similar to the manner in which science courses are listed as substitutions in category 4A and 4B. Basom seconded the motion. Discussion followed. This course could be viewed as similar to the 820:031, 820:032 courses for elementary education majors, which are listed apart from the other category 4A and 4B courses. However, with the course now in 1C, it is generally recommended that freshman take their category 1 courses as soon as possible, while the category 4 courses can be taken at a later time.

A listing such as the following is the recommended wording:

Category 1: Core Competencies

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C. Quantitative Techniques and Understanding (3 hours required)

Elementary Education students may meet the category 1C requirement by completing 800:0XX.

800:023 Mathematics in Decision Making

800:060 Calculus I

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Motion passed with one abstention.

VI. Adjournment:

Dunn moved to adjourn; Basom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – November 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan