

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
February 3, 2006
Old Gold Room, Maucker Union

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

Guest: Dr. Dhirendra Vajpeyi

I. Call to Order:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Morgan moved and Murphy seconded the approval of the minutes for January 27, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements:

No Announcements

IV. New Business:

A. Capstone Course Proposal: Globalization, Cultural Pluralism, and International Security; Dr. Dhirendra Vajpeyi

Dr. Vajpeyi provided the Committee with an overview of his proposed Capstone course. During the question and answer session that followed, it was noted that this course has not been taught before and is a combination of various courses that Dr. Vajpeyi has taught in the past. It was also noted that the proposed course would be a good fit for Group C in the Social Science category.

Davidson made a motion to approve "Globalization, Cultural Pluralism, and International Security" as a Capstone course offering. Baughman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business:

A. LACC Leadership and Administration

Smith reported that, in his meeting with Susan Koch, it was agreed that the person who serves as LAC coordinator should be committed to serving on a long-term basis, while recognizing that the arrival of a new provost might result in changes. Koch said it would be difficult to find someone yet this semester, but a coordinator could be in place by the fall. The Provost's Office will conduct the search.

With the review of the Capstone model coming up, Dr. Koch talked about having a Capstone conference that would involve people who have taught Capstone, who would like to teach Capstone, and the possibility of bringing in outside speakers who have been involved in Capstone experiences in other schools. The Committee supports this proposal.

Heston suggested that since the new Capstone courses seem to be working well, now might be a good time to begin the review process, instead of waiting until the end of the three-year time frame. After some discussion the Committee decided that, in order to start collecting data, the Capstone student and faculty surveys would be administered this semester in Capstone courses. Smith will contact Ronnie Bankston to make him aware of the Committee's intentions.

B. Category Coordinating Committees

The Committee reviewed the revised Category Coordinating Committee proposal. A brief discussion took place regarding data collection and storage.

Murphy made a motion to approve the Category Coordinating Committee proposal, forwarding it to the University Faculty Senate for its consideration. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Student Outcomes Assessment

Since the Committee will be charging the Category 3 review team sometime this month, Smith initiated a discussion regarding instructions to give the review team with respect to student outcomes assessment. It was concluded that the review team could be asked to offer its suggestions in this regard, and that they could also be encouraged to develop a set of fairly general questions, student responses to which would indicate how effectively courses in the category met certain broad objectives.

VI. Other Business:

No other business

VII. Adjournment:

Heston moved to adjourn. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be February 10, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Old Gold Room in Maucker Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Nedrow,
Secretary Pro Tem