

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
March 24, 2006
Old Gold Room, Maucker Union

Present: Brown, Morgan, Neibauer, Smith, Vinton.

Guest: Chuck Holcombe

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Morgan moved, and Brown seconded, the approval of the minutes for March 10, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements:

A. Faculty Senate Meeting, 3/27.

Smith informed the Committee that, at its upcoming meeting, the UNI Faculty Senate was scheduled to take up the LACC's proposal regarding category coordinating committees.

B. Category 1D Wrap-up Meeting, 3/22.

Smith reported on the final wrap-up meeting that was held with administrators in regard to the Category 1D, Personal Wellness, Review Report.

C. Response to Memo Regarding Budget Situation.

Smith reported that Acting Provost Lubker has responded favorably to the memo sent him regarding UNI's budget situation.

IV. New Business:

A. Consultative Session with the Category 2B (Non-Western Cultures) Review Team.

Chuck Holcombe of the History Department attended the meeting on behalf of the Category 2B review team. Chuck responded to questions raised by members of the Committee with regard to the draft Category 2B report.

Responding to material in the report which suggested that some courses in the category covered multiple cultures, Morgan noted that it may be best to offer more narrowly defined course alternatives.

Considerable attention was paid to the report's material on outcomes assessment. The Committee expressed appreciation of the review team's efforts in this regard, and of the broad questions they'd used to assess student learning. Brown noted that, lacking pre- and post-measures, it would be difficult to determine how much students had learned from the NWC courses themselves. Smith passed along a concern noted by Heston, regarding the relative lack of information on the rating process and inter-rater reliabilities. The review team was encouraged to build up this part of their report. The possibility of using an existing instrument that measures individual ethnocentrism as an outcomes assessment device for this category was also discussed.

Responding to material in the draft report, Smith asked whether there was a continuing problem with unqualified instructors being assigned to teach sections of NWC courses. Holcombe replied that these seemed to be isolated instances.

The report's information about student backlogs was also discussed. It was concluded that there is not currently a problematic backlog with this course, in part because additional sections have been offered in the recent past, and also because students are increasingly able to satisfy this LAC requirement through courses at community colleges.

Responding to the report's indication that some course descriptions for courses in the category were no longer accurate, Smith encouraged the NWC faculty to submit changes through the UNI curricular process.

Morgan suggested that it would be helpful if Appendix D, which lists faculty who teach NWC courses, also indicates the specific courses they teach.

B. LAC Data Collection Needs.

Smith distributed a draft document listing the information the LACC would like to receive, on a routine basis, from the Registrar and other sources. Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

V. Old Business:

A. Position Description for LAC Coordinator.

Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

VI. Other Business:

No other business.

VII. Adjournment:

Brown moved to adjourn. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12.

The next meeting will be held on March 31, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the Old Gold Room in Maucker Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Smith
Acting Secretary