

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
March 31, 2006
Old Gold Room, Maucker Union

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

I. Call to Order:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Brown moved and Baughman seconded the approval of the minutes for March 24, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements:

A. Faculty Senate Action on LACC Proposal Regarding Category Coordinating Committees

Smith announced that the University Faculty Senate unanimously approved the Category Coordinating Committee proposal. He said the discussion included a question about the length of terms of service for committee members, which he felt could be decided by the college senates or the committees themselves. There was also a comment about such committees not having much power to do things. Smith's response was that the coordinating committees could work with faculty and department heads to make needed changes, but the Liberal Arts Core Committee and the University Faculty Senate would retain their existing authority. The committees would be a grass roots source of information and bodies that could initiate actions that would come to the LACC and ultimately to the Faculty Senate for approval.

Smith concluded by saying he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting and appreciative of the support of the senators.

IV. New Business:

A. Report on Possible LAC Course Substitutions. Neibauer and VanHooreweghe

Neibauer and VanHooreweghe presented the Committee with a list of potential LAC course substitutions and LAC category waivers for specific majors for the Committee's review. VanHooreweghe stressed that these documents are drafts for discussion only.

Brown had a concern about advising confusion if a student were to change their major. Smith said that he would be more supportive of waivers for majors than he would be for LAC substitutions, as he has a concern about turning the Liberal Arts Core into a set of very specialized courses that serve the interests of faculty but not the needs of students.

Since the current Liberal Arts Core has not been significantly revised in approximately 20 years, the possibility of reducing the Liberal Arts Core to one that is actually “more core” was discussed. Budget issues related to a change of this sort were also briefly discussed. It was noted that if a change of this sort were to be made, faculty would need to accept that they would not be allowed to determine, as individuals, everything that’s taught in a course.

Reviewing and revising the goals and realms of the Liberal Arts Core was briefly mentioned. Smith noted that this issue may be addressed next semester.

VanHooreweghe also provided the Committee with transfer course information from four community colleges for review and discussion. Following the discussion, Smith thanked Neibauer and VanHooreweghe for their work on gathering the information and said this is an issue that would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

V. Old Business:

A. LAC Data Collection Needs

Smith distributed a draft of the types of information the LAC needs in order to manage the program. The Committee reviewed the draft and after some suggestions were made, it was decided that Smith would arrange to meet with Phil Patton, the Registrar.

Baughman made a motion to approve the list of LAC Informational Needs in order for the LACC Chair to discuss with Phil Patton how these needs could be supplied by the Registrar’s Office. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Position Description for LAC Coordinator

Smith distributed a draft of an LAC Coordinator position description for the Committee’s review. The Committee offered some suggested changes and will consider this again at next week’s meeting.

VI. Other Business:

A. End-of Semester LACC Meeting Plans

It was noted that the main topic for next week would be the LAC Coordinator position description. Smith added that he would

like to see the Category 2A draft review report addressed yet this semester.

VII. Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The next meeting will be April 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Old Gold Room in Maucker Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Nedrow,
Secretary Pro Tem