

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

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

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

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

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

III. Announcements:

A. Report on the discussion of the Personal Wellness Category Review at the 2/27 Faculty Senate Meeting

Smith reported that Interim Provost Lubker's update on UNI's budget situation colored the rest of the Senate meeting, including the discussion of the Personal Wellness category review. Smith said the Personal Wellness review team seemed to be in agreement with the LACC's conclusions, as presented to the Senate. There are things students like about Personal Wellness, but there's also need for improvement. In light of the budgetary concerns raised by Lubker, a senator asked whether or not Personal Wellness should still be offered. Smith said this issue would need to be looked at in the context of an overall evaluation of the LAC.

Smith said the University Faculty Senate received the Committee's report, but did not endorse the recommendations. He said it would have been helpful if some recommendations had been separately endorsed by the Senate. Heston responded that endorsing recommendations requires advance strategizing in order to divide up the recommendations. Smith said he assumed that even without the Senate's endorsements, the Committee will be able to implement the recommendations, especially ways of making scheduling easier and having skill lab performance graded on a pass/fail basis. The Committee will maintain contact with the Personal Wellness faculty to monitor their implementation progress.

Smith concluded that the last step of the category review is to have a meeting with the dean of the College of Education, the head of HPELS, Provost Lubker, and Susan Koch to review and discuss implementation. He said this would be done after spring break.

- B. Disposition of the Capstone Course Proposal: Politics, War, Words, and Music: A Reflection of our Time, submitted by Dr. Stephen Taft
Smith reported that he sent Dr. Taft an e-mail requesting that he resubmit a revised version of the Capstone course for the Committee's consideration. Dr. Taft responded that he would not be submitting a revised proposal.
- C. Distribution of the draft Category 2B Report (Non-Western Cultures). Status of the draft Category 2A Report (Humanities).
The Category 2B Report was distributed for the Committee's information and review. After the Committee has reviewed the report, a consultative session will be held with the Non-Western Cultures faculty to provide feedback for them to use in preparing their final report. Smith informed the Committee that Jerry Soneson had asked for an extension of the deadline for submitting the Category 2A, Humanities draft report. Smith responded that his primary concern was having the final report by the end of April. Soneson said the Committee would receive the draft report shortly after spring break.
- D. Distribution of English Department Proposal Regarding Writing-Enhanced Sections of LAC Courses
Smith distributed Baughman's English Department Proposal Regarding Writing-Enhanced Sections of LAC Courses and mentioned that this is something Provost Lubker has been anticipating. Smith asked Baughman if he would prefer to move ahead quickly with the writing proposal. Baughman responded that it would be helpful to have the needed approvals acted on quickly so materials can be prepared and promotional activities undertaken for summer students. It was noted that writing-enhanced courses would allow students to satisfy six hours of LAC requirements with three hours of LAC credit.

Smith said that the plan would be for the Committee to review the proposal and, as a result of its deliberations, to extend the pilot test for another year. During that year the Committee would take the proposal to the University Faculty Senate. Smith said this item would be on next week's agenda and he would invite Jeff Copeland to attend that meeting.

IV. New Business:

A. Capstone Enrollment Data

The Committee reviewed enrollment data provided by VanHooreweghe. It was noted that there is diversity as related to majors and that Capstone is working well. A brief discussion followed.

B. UNI's Budget Situation and the Liberal Arts Core

An extended discussion took place regarding the budget situation as it relates to the Liberal Arts Core. At the beginning of the discussion it was noted that at the University Faculty Senate meeting, next steps regarding the budget were not identified and no groundwork was set for further action to be taken by faculty bodies.

Neibauer initiated a conversation regarding the lack of Liberal Arts Core courses to offer students when they come to campus for fall registration. She said that while it is recommended that all students take the four Core Competencies courses during their first year, there are never enough sections offered. She added that if the Liberal Arts Core is the foundation of students' programs and is the best way for them to start their education at UNI, we do not deliver on our promise.

It was suggested that a joint meeting with the LACC, University Curriculum Committee, and University Faculty Senate to discuss ways of addressing the budget situation would be beneficial. It would also be helpful for Provost Lubker to update the faculty as a whole on the budget situation.

Smith said it would be useful to determine what types of curricular changes could be made and what impact each would have.

At the conclusion of the discussion Smith said he would send a memo to Lubker to convey the LACC's sense of urgency regarding the budget. This memo will also mention communicating budget concerns to the faculty as whole.

V. Old Business:

A. LACC Leadership and Administration

No discussion took place.

B. Faculty Senate Review of the Capstone Requirement

The Committee agreed to put this item on hold for the time being. Smith said he would inform Ronnie Bankston of this decision.

VI. Other Business:

No other business

VII. Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Nedrow,
Secretary Pro Tem