

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
January 19, 2007
SIAC Meeting Room, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Jerry Caswell, Nadene Davidson, Cyndi Dunn, Brian Larkin, David Marchesani (for Jean Neibauer), Siobahn Morgan, Ron O'Meara, Jerry Smith, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II Approval of minutes:

Dunn moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2006, Vinton seconded. Motion passed

III Announcements

- A. Morgan mentioned that she would be meeting with the Heads of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences about a variety of LAC issues. DTGFS has contacted the Admissions office and wants only the one course from their department to be given LAC when it is transferred, and no other DTGFS courses should be counted as fulfilling the LAC. Jo Loonan (Admissions) wondered who has the authority to actually mandate such things – whether departments can do it, or if the LAC committee should do it, or the Provost's office. (NOTE: Later on Friday Morgan had consulted with Susan Koch about this. The consensus was that if a department doesn't want their transferred courses counted for LAC, then they should have their requests honored, without the need for additional approval from the LAC or other offices.)
- B. The 3A and 3B reviews are going forward. Susan Hill had asked about course descriptions for the courses in those category, and the Rod Library staff is checking that out. The statistical data is getting put together, and another meeting with the groups will take place soon.
- C. The curriculum cycle is getting wrapped up at the department level. The process involves the LAC at some level for LAC courses. Seeing the proposals at different times during this process will generally not cause too many troubles. Expect more proposals soon.
- D. Capstone Spring 2007 enrollments are good – nearly at 1200. Summer Capstone plans were asked of the new Capstone instructors. There will about 6 new Capstones and close to 14 sections of ETS.
- E. Nadene Davidson was welcome back into the LAC fold.
- F. Baughman asked about the numbering scheme for the new Capstone courses and the Capstone report going to the Faculty Senate. The new courses can retain their experimental numbering until the courses are approved. The earliest that the Senate

can act on the report is February 5. There are various timelines to work with here, including the deadlines for departments to get their fall schedules into the registrars. It would be very good for the Senate to act as quickly as possible on the report. There was further discussion about the numbering scheme, and whether this could be part of the Senate's discussion.

IV New Business – distribution of proposals/reports.

Various items were distributed, including a couple of new proposals. These included a new Capstone proposal about Kevin Costner "Water Planet" from Patrick Pease of Geography and a new category 4B course "Inquiry into Earth Science" from Cherin Lee of Science Education. There were two curriculum package forms from English about a course title change for 620:005, and 620:015, and the new course proposal for the "Jazz and Blues" Capstone course. There was discussion on whether to have consultations with the instructors of the new Capstone courses again (they previously visited when the courses were initially proposed). Another consultation would allow us to review the courses to see if they are working out, and to also help us define what a Capstone course really consists of. It was decided that all of the consultation forms be reviewed at once, rather than one at a time as they come in. This may push back the review of the new Capstone courses until this fall, after the various college senates approve the courses. And also the final version of the Capstone report was distributed.

V Old Business

A. Course Proposal – "Kazakhstan"

The course from David Landis "Studies in Cultures and Languages of Kazakhstan" was discussed as a new Capstone course. Caswell noted that the library doesn't have all of the books that are listed on the syllabus, in particular those that are listed as "common books". There was concern about the level of assessment of the student's knowledge of Kazakh society and culture. The assessment was primarily on the form of the reports not on the content. Smith suggested that the final paper for the course could be based upon the student's knowledge of the course, and draws upon the student's experience from the trip. This would bring the content into the course and provide the students an opportunity to reflect upon their experience. This suggestion should be forwarded to Landis. Smith moved to approve the course, and for Morgan to forward to Landis the suggestion of including more content evaluation at the end of the course. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

B. Non-Western Report

A couple of typos were corrected and some sentences were deleted and altered to make the report a bit more clear. Dunn moved to approve the report with the corrections, O'Meara seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Humanities Report

A subcommittee was formed to look closely at the report on Category 2A and provide feedback to the report authors. The subcommittee (Smith, VanHooreweghe and Morgan) will meet and discuss the report.

D. LAC Annual Report.

The report for the 2005-2006 year for the work of the LAC was discussed. There was some discussion about the coordinating committees and whether anything has been accomplished in that area. There was also discussion about the wording of item 6 in the “continuing concerns” section – and that was revised. Smith moved to approve the report as amended, Larkin seconded the report. Motion passed unanimously.

E. New Student Handbook

Jean (Suntanner) Neibauer would like the LAC committee to look over the new student handbooks to review the LAC information in them. It was pointed out that there were some errors on the LAC website about course descriptions missing, and Morgan will check that out. This is something that will be discussed at a future meeting.

VI. Adjournment:

Smith moved to adjourn, O’Meara seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – January 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan