

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
February 2, 2007
Presidential Meeting Room, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Jerry Caswell, Nadene Davidson, Cyndi Dunn, Siobahn Morgan, Ron O'Meara, Jean Neibauer, Jerry Smith, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

Guests: Cherin Lee, James Walters

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Inquiry in Earth Science

Cherin Lee and James Walters were on hand to talk about the proposed category 4B course, Inquiry in Earth Science. This course would provide content in the areas of astronomy, meteorology and geology to students, primarily elementary education majors, in an LAC physical science course. Currently there is a category 4B course "Inquiry in Physical Science" which has changed over time so that now it only includes physics and chemistry. The IES course would provide the elementary education majors with not only science content but also pedagogical content that they could use in their careers. The department of Earth Science is currently not contributing to the IIPS course, since it is being taught by only chemistry and physics.

Dunn asked about the creation of an LAC course that is designed for a specific major, since this course would be limited to elementary education majors. Lee responded that the enrollment is limited primarily because of the limited number of instructors and sections that are available. Also the courses are taught with an emphasis on pedagogy and methodology which may not appeal to other majors across campus. Other students are permitted to enroll in the courses, but priority enrollment is for elementary education majors to meet their needs.

There was discussion about some of the specific content of the course, such as geologic time versus simple rock and mineral identification. A variety of activities were distributed for the committee to examine. Lee mentioned that there was a hope to offer at least one section of it in fall 07 on an experimental basis. Currently there is a limitation on the number of sections and seats available in the "Inquiry" courses due to number of instructors available and room sizes.

Smith moved to approve the proposal, Davidson seconded. There was discussion of how the course was making use of the LAC to fulfill content areas that the major should address. There was also discussion about making the course available to non-elementary education majors. There was also the idea that perhaps another course or courses could

be created that were entirely hands-on physical science or biological science for non-elementary education majors, since this course would likely also be a very popular course for general UNI students. The motion was amended to include the suggestion to Lee that the course be offered in multiple sections, with some section(s) suitable for non-elementary majors. The question was called, and the motion was unanimously approved.

III Approval of Minutes

There were several errors in the minutes that had to be addressed. O'Meara moved to approve the minutes (as amended) of the January 26, 2007 meeting, Baughman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Announcements

- A. Morgan distributed the results of the Fall 2006 survey of the Non-Western Cultures courses. This is the indirect SOA for the category to complement the direct survey (essay) that is also done for the category. The survey questions were also made available to the reviewers for Category 3, and could form a basis for their indirect SOA. The NWC committee was lauded for their efforts to monitor their category so closely.
- B. Morgan reported about her meeting with Jerry Soneson about the category 2A review. There was some question about why certain parts were not included and Morgan would investigate that further (it was later discovered that the instructions given to the review committee were incorrect). The review team was given a new deadline of March 1, at which time the review should be finalized. There was also concern about the reference to category 2A as the "Crown Jewels" of the LAC. It will be suggested to the review committee that this flowery language might not be appropriate.
- C. Morgan also reported on her meeting with Susan Hill for the category 3B review. The category 3A group hasn't had much to say recently.
- D. And finally, Morgan reported on her meeting with Phil Patton to address the options that would be available for the Capstone catalog listing – what prefix should it have, assuming that the current model is continued. It is possible to list a course with not only a numerical prefix (ie, 010), but also with a three letter prefix, such as LAC, or CAP. We'll discuss our options further next week.
- E. Morgan reminded the group that the next meeting will have Jo Loonan and Dennis Hendrickson discuss the transfer credit mechanism. Phil Patton will also be present to provide background/historical information to the process. And we'll be back in our circular fishbowl next week – home sweet home.
- F. Morgan reported on a question from Cindy Herndon about the spring 2006 student survey – were students in the new Capstone courses (who had very favorable comments about the new Capstone courses compared to the ETS comments), different from the students taking ETS. In particular were the non-ETS students "better" to begin with than the ETS students, and that may have caused their reviews to be more positive. The results from the data collected showed that the opposite was true – students in the new Capstone courses tended to have lower GPA (only very

slightly) than the ETS students. So it appears that the high marks for the new Capstone courses on the survey was not due to a body of students that was significantly different than the ETS students. There was also discussion that the fact that ETS is only a two hour course and that the course expectations were not at the same level as the typically 3 hour new Capstone courses.

V. English Department Consultations

The consultations from the English department were discussed to change the names of 620:005 and 620:015 to “College Writing and Research” and “Craft of Academic Writing”. There is also a change in the description of 620:015. Baughman provided background on the reasons for the proposed name/description changes.

Basom moved to mark the consultation form with the “does NOT object, it does impact our department” option, Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment:

Davidson moved to adjourn, Basom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – February 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan