

MINUTES
Liberal Arts Core Committee
February 23, 2007
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,
Plaza level, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Jerry Caswell, Nadene Davidson, Cyndi Dunn, Siobahn Morgan, Jean Neibauer, Phil Patton, Jerry Smith, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

Guest: Gerri Perreault

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Capstone Course Proposal

Perreault talked about her course “Lies and Lying in Personal and Public Life”. She had previously taught the course as an Honors course. She discussed the requirements for the course, including the extensive reading and writing assignments. There was some discussion about the class size. Due to the large amount of writing in the course, a size of 15 was set, but it could go up to about 20. She also discussed various guest speakers who could come in and provide other aspects of lying, particularly in public relations, media, the internet, etc.

Smith moved to approve the course for Capstone credit. Davidson seconded. After an incredibly short discussion by the committee, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the February 2 2007 meeting were discussed. A few small corrections were noted. Dunn moved to approve the minutes, Baughman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the February 9, 2007 meeting were discussed. The error in meeting location was noted, and will be changed to reflect reality, as well as the date for the next LAC meeting. Smith moved to approve the minutes, Davidson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Announcements.

- A. Morgan mentioned that the Faculty Senate has approved the Capstone model that was in an experimental stage up to this point, to be the new form for Capstone. The Faculty Senate also asked the LACC to provide a set of guidelines for the monitoring and management of Capstone courses by fall 2007. Morgan noted that the LACC will

probably not have a great deal of work during the rest of this semester, and would like to get this as completed as possible during spring 2007.

- B. The next Faculty Senate meeting (February 26) will have the report of the Non-Western Cultures Review, the LACC summary of the view, and 2005-2006 Annual Report. Chuck Holcombe of the NWC group has been reminded of the meeting and will plan to attend.
- C. The LAC subcommittee that has been looking at possible ways to improve the LAC has come up with a few concepts. First, they would like to refer to the group as the “LAC Design Team”, which is a much more succinct, snappy title, and would look good on a bunch of jackets or t-shirts. Second, the group is seeking input from the University community through a series of forums. These have been scheduled for both faculty and students. The first meeting will be Wednesday February 28 at the NISG meeting (7 PM, Maucker Ballroom). Another student meeting will be scheduled after spring break.

Faculty forums have been scheduled for the following dates, times, locations:

Monday March 5, 3-5 PM, Seerley 120

Tuesday March 6, 3-5 PM, Wright 109

Wednesday March 21, 3-5 PM, Seerley 120

These meetings will be advertised in UniOnline and through e-mailings to faculty. Input from these meetings will be used by the Design Team to help them in their work at looking to improve the LAC.

- D. The Category 4 (Natural Science and Technology) Review Team is getting put together. Morgan noted that part of the Review process includes a meeting of the LAC subcommittee on SOA with the Review Team. The previous SOA subcommittee was made up of individuals that have since left the LAC. The new SOA subcommittee will be made up of Siobahn Morgan, Donna Vinton and Jerry Smith.
- E. The next meeting of the LAC will be in the Presidential Room.
- F. The curriculum taskforce is finally formed and will meet for the first time on March 2. This group will be looking at the curriculum as a whole, not just the LAC.

V. Transfer Courses

Discussion continued about the transfer credit for LAC courses that aren't “native” LAC courses. There are several aspects about this that have to be clarified, including what actions, if any, should the LACC take. The status of the request by DTGFS to Admission to stop accepting the courses was also discussed. There was also discussion about how to encourage students to take their LAC courses here entirely – some sort of recognition on their transcripts.

There was also discussion about our courses, and some of the problems within our own courses – which lead to discussion of the review process, course assessments and LAC

management. There is a great deal of inertia in the faculty when it comes to having them change the way they do things, in particular, their courses. Management tools such as using uniform standards or grading practices between different sections of the same courses are met with resistance by faculty who would prefer to do things their own way. While this might be viewed as “academic freedom”, it does hamper the process of maintaining and monitoring the quality of courses. There was also discussion about making faculty aware of the goals and purposes of the LAC from day 1, and making faculty aware of the problems in the courses (grading irregularities, level of rigor).

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Smith, seconded by Patton. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 2, 2007 in the PRESIDENTIAL ROOM!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Siobahn Morgan