

MINUTES  
Liberal Arts Core Committee  
September 21, 2007  
Student Involvement and Activities Center Meeting Room,  
Plaza level, Maucker Union

Present: Maria Basom, Ken Baughman, Adam Bentley, Jerry Caswell, Nadene Davidson, Donna Hoffman, Siobahn Morgan, Ron O'Meara, Jean Neibauer, Lori VanHooreweghe, Donna Vinton

Guests: Phil East, Gene Wallingford, Computer Science

I. Call to Order:

Morgan called the meeting to order not so promptly at 8:02 A.M.

II. Capstone Course proposal: Public Policy and Computing Technology

Phil East presented his proposal for his course, which had previously been offered under 820:140 (Environment, Technology and Society). The course covers public policy issues and computing. There is no expectation of any computing background needed for students in the course so it appropriate for the student body in general. Baughman asked about the reading and writing assignments. Since the issues in the course are not identified until after the course starts, there is no standard list of sources. Once the topics are determined, East finds readings that are at a level appropriate for the students. Students provide their views and information about the issues through the use of a Wiki (an information website). Students work in groups on issues, and East mentioned that even though the issues are the same for all groups, the resulting products from the students (reports, papers, wiki) are different. Students tend to take different stands on these issues, and end up examining their own biases on the topics. The material that students obtain concerning the issues also tends to be varied, and diverse, so they do not end up with identical results.

Vinton asked about guidelines for the students in obtaining material that deal with the issues, the process of examination of the issues. East mentioned the on-line sources and the library search page sources. Articles that are overly technical are generally not appropriate for the students, but articles from other sources such as journals, news papers, issue organization website (ACLU, etc). Students are then asked to examine their views on the topics and to present them. Classroom discussions are also used near the end of the course to go over the issues and share their views/problems/results.

Baughman asked about previously assigned readings and directions used for assignments in the course. East said he could obtain those, however the course has evolved a bit since those directions were used and he has been altering the course structure to respond to the skills of the students. East and Wallingford were thanked for their presentation.

Baughman moved to approve the course for Capstone credit as an experimental course. O'Meara seconded. Discussion followed. Committee members would like to obtain further information, particularly on what sort of specific readings have been used in the past. There was also a request for additional information on grading criteria in particular for assignments and presentations. Baughman withdrew his motion for approval, O'Meara agreed. Morgan

was requested to obtain additional information from East about the course, and the course will be discussed again at a future meeting.

### III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 14, 2007 meeting were examined. A minor correction was pointed out. Bentley moved to approve the minutes as amended, Hoffman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Announcements

- A. Morgan discussed the status of spring 2008 Capstone offerings. There are at least 15 sections of the “new” Capstone courses, and around 20 sections of ETS.
- B. The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) has started meeting and the first college curriculum package will be reviewed on September 26. This is the CNS package that contains some LAC related course proposals and changes. Most of the changes are cosmetic (change of course name, updates of course descriptions). There are two of the new Capstone courses in this packet and the LACC will review those at the next LAC meeting. In general the LACC will try to review the new Capstone courses before the UCC, however for this first package we are a little bit late.
- C. Another question that has come about is the question of graduate students taking the Capstone courses. Rule #4 of the LAC Administrative Guidelines (listed in the schedule of classes on the LAC page, very bottom – page 22 of the Fall 07 printed schedule of classes). Therefore no Capstone courses should have a “g” notation. Currently existing courses that have “g” notations will have to have those removed. Departments have been contacted so that they can get the paperwork filled and submitted into the current curriculum cycle. Another problem was the submission of two separate proposals for one course. That issue has been resolved as well (one proposal will be withdrawn).

### V. Old Business

- A. A revised copy of the Capstone Management document was distributed. This will be discussed at a later meeting.
- B. A draft copy of the LAC “Purposes and Goal” document was distributed. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

### VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was enthusiastically made by Davidson, and excitedly seconded by O’Meara. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next Meeting – 8:00 AM, September 28, 2007 – in the SIAC meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Siobahn Morgan  
LAC website: <http://www.uni.edu/vpaa/lac/index.shtml>