

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
North Hall Conference Room
April 19, 2016
MINUTES

Attendance: Fitzpatrick, Trelogan, Urbach, Nelson, Baird, Markowski, Wieben, Smith, Newman, Dickensheets, Steele, Milstead
Guest: Couch, Sharp, Sexton
Absent: Johnson, Martin, Martinez, Weber

Meeting called to order at 3:31p.m.

Approval of agenda

Approval of Minutes from March 1st and April 5th

Approved with amendments to the April 5th minutes

Chair's Report (Fitzpatrick) – APC approved a change to the language of prior discipline matters. APC also approved a measure regarding double-dipping. At Faculty Senate the CFO presented the current financial status. The state reinstated some funding so there will be less of a deficit. There is also a push to boost enrollment to 15,000 in 2020. 60% of revenue comes from tuition. An emphasis was placed on class sizes and the minimum number of enrollees needed to run a course.

Standing Reports

GE Council Report (Sexton) – UNC administrators and faculty attended the Colorado Department of Higher Education Faculty to Faculty meeting on April 15. The meeting focused on finalizing the competencies and learning outcomes for GT Pathway courses. Attendees included: Ann Bentz, Kyle Nelson, Angela Steele, Jason Byrnes, Tricia Jolly, Jimmy Dunn, Fritz Fischer, Julie Sexton, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Jeri Kraver, Chris Marston. During the meeting, participants met in small GT Pathway discipline groups and used feedback from faculty across the state to revise the specific competencies and learning outcomes selected in October 2015 for GT Pathway courses. At the beginning of the meeting, a request was made for all of the GT Pathway discipline groups to determine if Written Communication should be added as a competency for the courses in their discipline. At the end of the day, the general consensus across GT Pathway discipline groups was to not include Written Communication as a competency. The Composition courses may be the only ones that require Written Communication as a competency. The Colorado Department of Higher Education is working on a process to review existing GT Pathway courses and will share that process at a later date. A 2016 Fall semester Faculty to Faculty meeting is planned and the state gathered feedback to determine the focus of that meeting. There was significant interest from faculty to focus on the review process.

AVP Report (Smith) – The area of mathematics core is possibly evolving for the state and nationally. TIPSy has asked “What is a relevant and engaging mathematics program for students in various disciplines? There is a push for mathematics doctoral students to learn pedagogy in order to diversify mathematics core curriculum.

Core Curriculum Committee Reports – Milstead shared that her CCC will work on the SLOs but the departments are focused on saving their majors/etc.

Trelogan has one more vacancy than anticipated—Michael Oravitz is no longer part of CCC. This committee needs someone from the Arts. (ask Trelogan for the memo) The document is intended to cover all the subsets of Area 3. These SLOs have been mapped to the UNC goals.

Newman has not been able to schedule a meeting with Area 5, but she will arrange it soon along with inviting those who are not on the committee but might want to be part of the conversation. Syllabi will have to meet gtP but they'll also need to meet LAC SLOs (but they can always be the same or similar). Best to refer to the LEAP rubric as it will put everything on target with the state.

Baird reported that he shared the draft of the gtP document and the report he and Elkins set up last year with his committee. Area 6 classes with labs will need extra SLOs. Some of the SLOs are simple and they are that way by design because they can be assessed easily. The committee considered expanding the current SLOs because they are too simple but Baird wonders if that's the best option.

New member Mitchell Gardner for Area 6 & 7.

Wieben forwarded Trelogan's document but she hasn't heard back from her committee. They have some preliminary SLOs but the department wants to review them before they are approved. These SLOs are very similar to what the department already has.

Fitzpatrick would like drafted broad SLOs from the CCCs before summer, preferably by the next meeting on May 3rd.

The state expects to present a finished draft of the F2F learning outcomes by June 1st or July 1st. Trelogan suggested that the CCCs focus on the general area SLOs and then move forward once the state submits their finalized draft.

Unfinished Business

Continuation of EED exception to the "nine-credit rule" - Postponed
F2F documents and discussion - Postponed

Syllabus standard update – Markowski reviewed the edits. It was suggested that a UNC/LAC packet would be useful. Markowski will create a sentence that says something about a "packet" submission to the LAC. Klein's comment about the "Honor Code" was shared with the council. Nelson feels the meat of the document is number 3. Fitzpatrick would like all syllabi with the same format for easier review and clarity. Trelogan thinks it makes no sense to send this to faculty until the SLOs are reviewed and approved. This is all needed to be done for UNC's upcoming HLC review. Sharp suggested that it should also be noted when the LAC status of a course officially begins because it is possible that the syllabus might say one thing and the catalogue says another. She also asked about the +- grading policies. Number 6 states the grading policy, but it needs to be clearer and/or more specific.

Institutional data collection – Fitzpatrick has a meeting with those involved a week from today.

AY 15-16 Goals

Proposed changes to the LAC curriculum – Dickensheets shared her proposed changes to the LAC. She began with a suggested mandate that every department include a composition or writing curriculum instead of writing being managed by the current core. Second, reduce the credit hours of LAC to make it more manageable, possibly with one course in 10 different areas. Trelogan mentioned that UNC shouldn't sacrifice the size of the general education system so that students can focus more heavily on their majors. One course in each area is attractive but it might not meet the standards of gtP. Urbach said that presently her students cannot have a minor and by providing more space as Dickensheet's proposal suggests would provide them with time for a minor. Sharp said that the current gtP is that schools have to have 31 credits in areas 1-6, something that doesn't work with the current proposal. UNC has restrictions. Milstead at first liked the idea of taking writing out of the core, but the English department is responsible for teaching writing, not criminal justice or psychology, etc. Dickensheets said that some students who come out of the composition classes unprepared for other citation methods, etc. Fitzpatrick shared that there will be ENG 122 and 123 that is specific for criminal justice majors. Perhaps teaming up with the folks in English could address this concern and it would still meet the gtP requirements. Baird said that currently there are 7 credits required for life sciences and it looks like that area took a big hit under this proposal. Fitzpatrick likes that this document gets conversations going and areas asking questions.

Creating an LAC curriculum

Create procedures for regular assessment of courses in the core

Area competencies

Course reviews (ensure that the syllabus and learning outcomes are clearly aligned with State competency requirements)

Comments to the good of the order

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Chair

Abby Pekar, Recording Secretary