

UNIVERSITY of  
NORTHERN COLORADO



**LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL**  
**15 September 2015, 3:30-5pm**  
North Hall Conference Room

**Attendance: Smith, Fitzpatrick, Byrnes, Markowski, Nelson, Bentz, Johnson, Varner, Trelogan**

**Absent: Weber, Martin, Martinez, Urbach**

**Guests: Adams, Black, Vaughan**

**Called to order at 3:31pm**

**Announcements**

**Approval of Minutes from the September 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Bentz will send her notes. Weber was absent.

Minutes will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

**Regular Reports**

**Chair's Report (Fitzpatrick):**

*APC* is still talking about the ten-year policy that has always been on the books but has never actually been enforced. They want the departments to decide what rule they want to follow (such as a 5 year or 20 year rule). It is up to the faculty in the discipline.

*Faculty Senate* talked about spending priorities. There is worry about the money that is being spent to assess the climate on campus and the hiring of an outside group. There needs to be an independent, nonbiased assessment about how campus looks from the outside.

Provost talked about the increase in enrollments.

**GE Council Report (Bentz):**

*GEC* isn't meeting until later this month. The AP scores were evaluated. There is a problem with the data so they cannot go into the detail that the State is asking for. Students of color bring in AP scores on average of 3s. Not 4s or 5s. If UNC sides with taking only 4s, then UNC would be disadvantaging its own students. The *GEC* only has a year of data.

**AVP Report (Smith):**

None

**Core Curriculum Committee Reports:**

Varner needs to find someone in language to fill an empty spot in area 1b, so he is looking for recruits. Smith brought up the topic of CCC are not recognized by departments as service. He urged the Deans to discuss it with their teams.

**Old Business**

**Website Update:**

Pekar will send a link to the website and is looking for feedback.

**AY 15-16 Goals:**

Area Competencies: Postponed

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

## New Business

### **Review of NHS and SCED curriculum packets**

**SCI 225:** Baird noted that the course was sent to the wrong area. It should have been sent to area 1b. The course should be sent to Varner instead.

*DISCUSSION:* Adams mentioned that the impact statement from English Chair (Embry) arrived just this week. Varner agreed to send the curriculum packet to the CCC for review. Nelson expressed concern that such a course will open the doors to “writing for historians” or “writing for geographers” etc. and thus limiting students’ liberal arts education. This course has been set-aside until the next meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Fitzpatrick saw no reason not to postpone this until the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, which will be in time for the hard deadline.

**SCI 266:** Baird requested feedback, but didn’t hear from his CCC. He believes the packet is consistent with the area criteria. Trelogan posed a concern that the gtP check-box was marked but there was no gtP paperwork included. Departments are aware of the suspended gtP review for 15-16. Departments are planning to submit next year once the State re-opens for review.

Motion to approve SCI 266, (Trelogan/Varner)

*COURSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

**MATH 185C:** Varner said all CCC members unanimously approved the course.

Motion to approve MATH 185C, (Trelogan/Varner)

*COURSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

**MATH 186C:** Varner said all CCC members unanimously approved the course.

Motion to approve MATH 186C, (Trelogan/Varner)

*COURSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

### **LEAP Presentation (Smith):**

Smith would like the LAC to adopt the LEAP rubrics. UNC doesn’t have any specificity in what it wants students to take away from their undergraduate experiences. UNC doesn’t know what parts of those outcomes that can be taken from the GEC. The LAC represents the faculty in the governance of the liberal arts core. LAC governs the liberal arts core.

*DISCUSSION:* In some instances, faculty can use student artifacts and compare them against the rubric as a way to evaluate and assess learning outcomes. HLC doesn’t ask for quantitative data. This program is intended to get a snapshot of what students are learning, etc. Baird asked how this assessment model would work with the Fac-to-Fac. Black noted that it will fit well since this is the program that the State is going to use for learning assessment. Smith wants to know if the LAC buys the LEAP framework. Does this assessment model resonate with the Council? Black added that AACU has resources on the website if people want to do further research. The AACU has a general education conference that UNC faculty can attend. They also sponsor a summer institute. Johnson wanted to know if the LEAP outcomes are what UNC will adopt or will UNC amend them. Smith doesn’t want UNC to feel pressed upon, but it would be good to get out ahead of the State. Baird wanted to know if the LAC has the power to mandate that faculty offer assessment metrics? Fitzpatrick said LAC has the power to coerce faculty by virtue of removing their courses from the core. Smith said that if faculty want to teach in the core, then faculty need to follow the requirements of the core (ex.

learning assessment). Byrnes thinks the LAC needs to sell this to the liberal arts faculty since ultimately they are the ones who will be practicing the learning assessments. Fitzpatrick agreed that the LAC needs buy-in so that faculty will cooperate. But Johnson mentioned that the LAC can look to the State if faculty push back, stating that the State is going to require such assessments. Johnson wondered who is responsible for pushing the button. Smith mentioned that the liberal arts core has not been reviewed in a long time and so it needs to be reviewed. But does the LAC think that the liberal arts core has a purpose, a curriculum or just a smattering of courses? The LAC doesn't have the option of not doing anything, but the LAC doesn't have to adopt LEAP. However, LEAP is a good fit for UNC. Black mentioned that there's no need to adopt all the areas at once, but over the years UNC can collect artifacts, see what is learned, and then the next year bring on a new area assessment. This is a chance to introduce a new culture into UNC's faculty. Fitzpatrick believes the council needs to continue discussing this, but at some point the Council needs to vote and create subcommittees to develop protocol, what will be done first, etc.

**Comments to the good of the order**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm**

**Colleen Fitzpatrick, Chair**

**Abigail Pekar, Recording Secretary**