



LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL

21 January 2014

Minutes

Attendance: Baird, Bentz, Boyce, Fong, Smith, Spahr, Trelogan, Varner, Weber

Absent: Aske, Eastin, Senbet

Guests: Kohler, Sharp, Urbach, Vaughan

Call to Order at 3:33 p.m.

Announcements: None

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Dec. 3:

Bentz proposed a clarification of the contents of the GE Council Report in the third paragraph—"the course materials were judged by the committee not to support the rigor of the course promised by the syllabus." Vaughan's name was misspelled in the "Guests" list. Minutes approved as amended.

Regular Reports:

Chair's Report: The CDHE wants a list of the courses that will be nominated for gtPathways by 2/14, and the actual packets will need to be sent in by 3/5.

The Faculty-to-Faculty Conference—the 30th one!—will take place on 4/18, from 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton. It will be devoted to reviewing and revising the gtPathways content and competency areas for mathematics and written communication. Trelogan plans to send out a general mailing to faculty encouraging people to attend. Bentz said that she plans to talk with English about sending someone to represent UNC, and she and the Council will try to see to it that at least one person from NHS attends the math session and that at least one from HSS attends the session on written communication.

Sarah Allen is running workshops for current LAC faculty teaching courses in which writing is required (*i.e.*, courses in which at least 20%–25% of the grade is to be based on student writing). A general mailing went out to members of the faculty who are teaching such courses this semester but didn't go out to those who do teach such courses but aren't teaching any this semester. The first session wasn't highly attended. The sessions happen about once a month, and it's probably not too late to invite other faculty who might be interested in attending. Allen might be persuaded to offer this program again, of course, but it wouldn't hurt to drum up additional business right now.

In connection with this, Trelogan asked the Council to be thinking about whether or not it would like to recommend a university-wide policy mandating smaller class sizes for such LAC courses. Philosophy and History have up to 65 students in many sections of their LAC classes, and there are other departments—perhaps especially in some of the social sciences—that have a good many more. Vaughan pointed out that the cost of reducing the maximum

size of sections of these courses would be high, and Bentz said that to get a sense of that cost, it would be good to know how many sections of LAC classes this would involve per semester. Trelogan agreed out that affected departments would have to find ways to balance the books and pointed out two ways in which this might be done: (1) some or all affected departments might be able to compensate by raising caps on at least some of their upper-level courses, and (2) the Council might consider increasing the number of LAC offerings in at least some of the affected areas—maybe by adding some 300- and maybe even some 400-level courses to the Core. The Council decided to wait to discuss this until after it has the results of the currently ongoing review of the syllabi of LAC classes taught last semester.

GE Council Report (Bentz): Bentz reported that at its last meeting the GE Council discussed acceptance of AP/IB and CLEP scores. Since a score of 3 is equivalent to high school level work, the State would like to bump up the minimum requirement to a score of 4 even though this would eliminate several courses. Since some schools accept 3s and others accept only 4s, there is no real equivalency. These scores are tied to credits as well. A report containing all the cut scores is being redone because the draft that was not posted contained a number of errors. Bentz asked the Council if it has any thoughts about this. Vaughan pointed out that a lot of our students will be affected if the cut scores are bumped up to 4 and that if we continue to accept 3s, that might bring more students to UNC. Sharp and Kohler said that students transferring in from schools that accept lower scores often don't understand why their credits won't transfer. Boyce observed that if policies were the same across the state, this problem wouldn't arise. When asked about who would decide all this, Bentz answered that faculty and departments are ultimately going to have to make the final decision.

Bentz noted that documents containing the statewide articulation agreements have been revised to include a specification of emphasis areas, and noted that documents containing the statewide articulation agreements have been revised to include a specification of emphasis areas

Upcoming articulation agreement discussions will have to do with early childhood education, music education, and mass communication. UNC will be involved. The recent articulation agreements have all been finalized except for one.

Finally, Bentz reported that Ian Macgillivray has expressed a willingness to come talk to faculty at any institution about state policy perspectives.

AVP Report (Smith): Regarding the currently ongoing syllabus review, each Core Curriculum Committee should be convening in the next couple of weeks. Faculty should access Qualtrix. There will be a list of criteria in three categories per section, per course—1) the course explicitly meets our criteria, 2) the course implicitly meets our criteria, 3) the course does not meet our criteria. All information and access will be available by the end of this week. The UCLA faculty survey will include some questions that are directly related to this review. The Committee coordinating all this will have a report as soon as all results are submitted. Fong and Trelogan are worried about the time constraint. Smith will look into options and get back to committee chairs about various options for getting the project done on time.

Core Curriculum Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Assignment of four new courses being proposed for addition to the Core to the appropriate Core Curriculum Committees:

MIND 296. Since the content of this course has to do with science, the Council agreed that even though the course is being considered only for inclusion in the Core only as an elective, it would make sense to have the Physical and Life Sciences Committee provide the Council with a recommendation.

MUS 212, MUS 245, MUS 248. These packets are missing various elements as they stand—elements that will have to be supplied before they go down to Denver for the state-level review, but the Council agreed that MUS 212 (Song Lyrics) should be reviewed by the Core Curriculum Committee for History, Literature, and the Humanities, that MUS 245 and MUS 248 both be reviewed by the Core Curriculum Committee for International and Multicultural Studies for possible inclusion in Area 7, that MUS 245 should be reviewed by the Core Curriculum Committee for the Social and Behavioral Sciences for possible inclusion also in Area 5, and that MUS 248 should be reviewed by the Core Curriculum Committee for Philosophy and the Arts for possible inclusion in Area 3a.

Discussion Item:

Changes to the *Catalog* description of the Core proposed by the Registrar's Office (continued from the meeting of 12/3):

The Council was not ready to discuss any further specific proposed language today, but the following observations, reminders, suggestions, and questions emerged from the discussion:

- CSU treats out-of-state students on a case-by-case basis instead of requiring them to meet CSU's core requirements, so everything's based on straight equivalencies. One possibility is that we could model our own policy on CSU's.
- Smith suggested instead the liberal use of expressions such as the one Fong suggested in one of our earlier discussions: "or the equivalent."
- There was general agreement that we need to be concerned about fairness to students transferring to UNC from out-of-state who have a good liberal arts background but don't specifically fit our requirements, but the question remains as to just how we define the phrase "a good liberal arts background." The Registrar's Office wants guidance from the Council about just how it's to implement this idea.
- Smith reiterated his view that if a student has an AA or AS from an accredited institution, we ought to waive our basic 31-credit requirement, but Sharp reminded us all that some AAs and ASs from accredited institutions don't specifically require such courses as basic courses in English or history.
- Most agreed that the biggest problem would be with students coming in with AA degrees or AS degrees without ever having taken basic courses in English or mathematics.

Smith volunteered to work with Sharp and Kohler to get all this resolved. Sharp pointed out that the absolute deadline for getting new language into the *Catalog* is Mar. 1.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned (Trelogan/Boyce) at 5:03 p.m.

Tom Trelogan
Chair

Abigail Pekar
Recording Secretary