



## LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL

18 February 2014

### Minutes

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

**Absent:** Aske, Eastin

**Guests:** Charlie Couch, Joe Elkins, Dana Kohler, Nancy Matchett, Stacy Sharp, Jenny Urbach

**Call to Order** at 3:33 p.m.

**Announcements:** None

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Jan. 21:** postponed until the next meeting

#### **Regular Reports:**

**Chair's Report (Trelogan):** None

**GE Council Report (Bentz):** Mathematics has agreed to send two representatives to the April 18<sup>th</sup> Faculty-to-Faculty Conference at Arapahoe Community College, but we still could use representatives from Arts and Humanities, History, or Social and Behavioral Sciences.

April 17<sup>th</sup> is the Supplemental Academic Instruction Summit at Arapahoe Community College. UNC will be present with one representative from English and one from Mathematics attending along with the GEC Representative. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is still discussing the cut score but there is as yet no agreement as to what it will be.

The Statewide Articulation Agreements will take effect at the beginning of the next academic year, *i.e.*, in fall 2014.

**AVP Report (Smith):** Smith reported that the following language covering waivers of the Core requirements for students transferring in from out of state and from private institutions within the state of Colorado has been worked out for next year's *Catalog*: "Individuals with an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or a Bachelor's degree (regardless of date of completion) from an accredited public institution in the State of Colorado, will have their Liberal Arts Core requirements waived. Individuals with an out-of-state or private institution degree will qualify for a waiver of Liberal Arts Core requirements if they have successfully completed at least one course in each of the following areas: Communication (Area 1), Mathematics (Area 2), Arts & Humanities (Area 3), History (Area 4), Social & Behavioral Sciences (Area 5), and Physical & Life Sciences (Area 6). If these requirements are not met, the student will need to fulfill the requirements of the Liberal Arts Core in full."

**Core Curriculum Committee Reports:** None

**Old Business:** None

## **New Business:**

### **Courses Being Proposed for Inclusion in the Core:**

MIND 296: Baird reported that the Core Curriculum Committee for the Physical and Life Sciences recommends the inclusion of MIND 296 in the Electives area of the Core. While the syllabus provides little detail about what topics will be covered, this is because the topics covered will vary from semester to semester depending on current events, so this was not seen as a problem.

A motion to approve the inclusion of MIND 296 in the Electives Area of the Core (Baird/Fong) was unanimously approved.

MUS 212: Fong reported that the Core Curriculum Committee for History, Literature, and the Humanities has no reservations in principle about the appropriateness of the course for Area 3b, but would like to see some further tightening of the course outline. Also, the syllabus doesn't make it as clear as it might just how song lyrics will be analyzed.

MUS 245: Boyce reported that the Core Curriculum Committee for International and Multicultural Studies judges that course doesn't satisfy the criteria for Area 8 and would like to see a stronger case made for inclusion of the course in Area 7. No report was available from the Core Curriculum Committee for the Social and Behavioral Sciences regarding the proposal to include the course in Area 5c.

MUS 248: Boyce reported that the judgment of the Core Curriculum Committee for International and Multicultural Studies regarding the proposal to include this course in Areas 7 and 8 was essentially the same as its judgment regarding the proposal to include MUS 245 in Areas 7 and 8. Trelogan reported that if the Core Curriculum Committee for Philosophy and the Arts is inclined to think that the course might well be appropriate for inclusion in Area 3a, but needs to see a statement from Music to the effect that it would like to see it included in that Area prior to making a recommendation of its own

A motion to ask the School of Music to submit revised course packets for all three courses including Pathways nomination materials (Baird/Boyce) was unanimously approved.

## **Discussion Item**

### **Report of Early Findings of the Liberal Arts Task Force's Evaluation of the Core**

A copy of the report is attached.

Smith gave the Council a summary of the Task Force's early findings and described the next steps the task force is planning to take: it will be giving a presentation regarding its findings at the 2014 Assessment Fair, will be facilitating a series of student focus groups to find out more about students' experiences with the Core, will be hosting a number of "Coffee and Core Conversations" with faculty during the spring semester, and will be investigating strategies for assessing student outcomes and facilitating a pilot project using some of those strategies during 2014–2015.

In the discussion that followed, several members of the Council agreed that it would be a good thing to extend the review of course syllabi for another three semesters or so since data from several semesters would provide us with a clearer picture of just how many courses are continuing, as taught, to satisfy the Liberal Arts Core criteria. Since we have the mechanism

to conduct the review already in place, it would be easy to continue the process. Because there are Core courses that are taught only every other year, it was suggested that the review be continued for another three semesters. It was also suggested that courses in Area 7, Area 8, and the Electives Area be included in the review. The Council could take over the administration of the review process for the duration of the extended review period.

The question arose as to whether the Task Force intends to try to ask adjunct faculty the questions regular faculty were asked to respond to regarding the Core in the recent UCLA Faculty Survey. The answer is no—simply because adjunct faculty are so difficult to contact.

Finally, in response to the question whether faculty whose syllabi were reviewed in the recent syllabus review will be getting specific feedback regarding the results of the review, the task force said that there is no plan to do this because this was just a general review of course syllabi, not one that was meant to focus on individual faculty.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Tom Trelogan  
Chair

Abigail Pekar  
Recording Secretary

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Recording Secretary

