



LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL  
17 February 2015 – 3:30 p.m.  
South Hall Conference Room

## MINUTES

Attendance: Trelogan, Baird, Varner, Spahr, Smith, Fong, Senbet, Martinez, Weber  
Absent: Urbach, Bentz, Fitzpatrick  
Guests: Vaughan, Sharp

**Meeting called to order at 3:38 p.m.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

### **Regular Reports**

1. Chair's Report - None
2. GE Council Report (Smith) – GE Council is going to set up a policy on prior learning assessment. Experience gained outside of the college curriculum (professional or military experience) will count as college credit/experience. UNC would have to develop a process and a standing body that would take up evaluations. On **April 24** there will be a **Faculty-to-Faculty Statewide Conference** at Arapaho College. The GE Council wants faculty representation from competency areas 1-6. Smith encouraged volunteers and invited them to contact him or Bentz if interested.
3. AVP Report (Smith) – Reminder of the HLC's request to meet with the LAC on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He urged the council to be present. Smith and Black have shared questions that the HLC will likely ask the council. Black will visit the March 3 meeting to get the council up to speed.
4. Core Curriculum Committee Reports (Fong) – Forwarded the Faculty-to-Faculty email for recruits. No other reports.

### **Old Business**

1. 300-level policy change discussion and vote
  - a. *DISCUSSION*: Fong explained that the CCC is not comfortable with opening up the policy to include 300-level courses. Trelogan suggested that the LAC take up the policy to include 300 or 400-level courses ad hoc. Adjuncts teach most lower-level courses. If UNC had a core curriculum spread across the four levels, this might encourage staffing core curriculum courses with full-faculty. There is a general understanding that core should be knocked out of the way early in students' academic career so that their final two years are used to focus on their areas of concentrations. However, some students cannot do this and so seniors and juniors take core courses at the 100 and 200-level, which is odd. If there were upper level courses, seniors and juniors might be attracted to those courses

instead. The concern that the council holds is that MLSC is trying to knock out a history core course requirement for their cadets. Trelogan and others agreed that it would be a mistake to change policy specifically for this course alone. Adding upper level courses into the core should be plotted by design and not ad hoc. Smith does know of institutions that have 4-year core program; however, UNC is not set up like this. Freshmen would have to be advised to avoid the upper level courses. Senbet saw a problem with prerequisites because that means it isn't open to everybody. Trelogan did point out that some current LAC classes have prerequisites (ENG, MATH, LANG). Vaughan mentioned that the ongoing assessment of courses will become overwhelming if upper level courses are included. Fong threw out the idea of adding another area (such as Area 9) but this would need to go the Senate, etc. Smith suggested tabling the subject indefinitely because LAC doesn't have a tightly structured rationale and building upon this fragile structure without reviewing the foundation could be problematic.

- b. *MOTION*: Item tabled indefinitely (Martin)
- c. *SECOND*: Fong
- d. *VOTE*: 1 yes, 5 no, 2 abstentions, motion failed.
- e. *MOTION*: To make it an explicit policy to restrict all LAC to 100-200-level (Varner)
- f. *SECOND*: Fong
- g. *VOTE*: 1 abstention, motion passes.
- 2. Liberal Arts Core Review Application
  - a. MLSC 357: American Military History
  - b. Smith agreed to contact MLSC to inform them of the Council's decision not to move forward.
- 3. gtPathways Flow Chart
  - a. Individual members agreed to reach out to Bentz with comments or edits.
- 4. Council/CCC Vacancies (Smith/Trelogan)
  - a. Current CCC vacancies – There is no Life of the Mind representative. David Aske has stepped down. There is no chair for Multicultural Studies. Reardon is not officially appointed and cannot stand in as chair of area 7. Smith is going to approach George June for Multicultural Studies. Baird will talk to Cynthia Galovich to take on CCC chair. Trelogan/Smith suggested proposing a structural change to CCCs by altering the strategy of appointing new members. This isn't a suggestion of removing CCCs entirely and leaving it to the LAC, however.
  - b. *DEFERRED* until the following meeting.
- 5. Brainstorming
  - a. Study abroad to count in area 7
    - i. *DISCUSSION*: Fong noted that a class had been taken in Utah and the student wanted the course to count for Area 8. This course didn't meet any of the Asian studies courses. Can the CCCs make a substitution? A resolution could be making up a course that would be housed in a department. Sharp referenced last year's minutes when the Council agreed that the proper place for a study abroad course is in University College, specifically in the Life of the Mind.
  - b. Discussion of LAC's writing requirement

- i. *DISCUSSION*: The council believes there should be MORE writing. Senbet brought up the practicality of the writing assignments in certain courses, particularly in his department where the classes are 65+ students. In the LAC, 20% of the grade has to be from writing assignments.

**New Business**

1. Courses submitted to the state for gtPathways approval
  - a. GEOG 250, The Making of the American Landscape, resubmission
  - b. MUS 248, Asian Musical Culture, resubmission
  - c. MUS 245, Introduction to Ethnomusicology, resubmission
  - d. MUS 212, Song Lyrics, resubmission
  - e. *DISCUSSION*: This an informational item only.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.**

Tom Trelogan  
Vice Chair

Abigail Pekar  
Recording Secretary