



LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL

3 February 2015 – 3:30 p.m.
South Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

Attendance: Fitzpatrick, Baird, Martinez, Varner, Fong, Urbach, Senbet, Bentz
Absent: Smith, Martin, Trelogan, Spahr, Couch, Sharp, Graves, Weber
Guest: Hoffman, Huffman

Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm

Announcements

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 20th

Martin, Martinez, Senbet should be added in "Attendance"

Minutes approved as amended

Regular Reports

1. Chair's Report – The HLC review team has requested a meeting with the LAC on Tuesday, March 10, from 10-10:45. Fitzpatrick would like the entire council to attend if possible.
2. GE Council Report – The next meeting is 2/9. There will be a focus on revising gtP competencies and content criteria. Bentz may ask for faculty representation.
3. AVP Report - None
4. Core Curriculum Committee Reports – None

Old Business

5. Liberal Arts Core Review Application

- a. MLSC 357: American Military History
 - i. This course is a commissioning requirement for Cadets. Some students have struggled to meet the MLSC history and LAC requirement, possibly missing opportunities. Since ROTC scholarships only cover fall and spring, students are less likely to take summer courses. Huffman presented 2 textbooks used for the course.
 - ii. Fong, Chair of CCC, presented the committee's questions & concerns:
 1. The LAC doesn't have 300-level courses in the core. As Fong knows it, the LAC wants to keep the courses below 300. Huffman assured that the course cannot be lowered to a 200-level course.
 2. The syllabus is geared towards ROTC candidates, but LAC courses should be available to all of UNC's students. MLSC 357 will be open to army and air force cadets first and then to other students if available. This course could be offered every semester if needed.
 3. The outcomes lined up nicely with area 4, but the remainder of the syllabus didn't go into detail on interpretive and analytical

perspectives, develop diverse groups, etc. Hoffman explained that there will be several views of thoughts due to the background of the instructors. Fitzpatrick asked what would happen once Huffman and Hoffman are gone? Huffman assured the Council that the objective is to have one qualified history instructor on staff at all times. Most senior officers are already qualified. Fong asked for more explanation in the syllabus to move forward with the review, making sure that the criteria (critical thinking, writing, etc.) in the category is clearly demonstrated in the syllabus.

4. *DECISION*: MLSC will flesh out the syllabus so that it clearly reflects the standards of the LAC (1b, 1c, 3). The LAC will discuss changing the policy to include 300-level courses. Course will be deferred until next LAC meeting on the 17th.

6. Brainstorming Goals

- a. Urbach would like to see the council take up the issue of allowing at least 1 international class to count in Area 7 even if they are not in the catalog... perhaps this is a "petition" that they fill out. If students can show that the class they took provided some international experience he thinks LAC should fit in area 7.
 - i. *DISCUSSION*: There are several students who have taken classes with an international perspective that cannot use them to meet the LAC requirements. Fong mentioned that the Life of the Mind could take this subject on with a MIND elective, special topics, or international topics. Senbet asked if any course could be included, not just study abroad? Urbach is thinking specifically about international students. Bentz said LAC may not have to go that route. If LAC says a course can come in or it will count, Couch will move forward. But it would be a matter of establishing a process and it would go to the CCC for area 7. The LAC would receive the petition which includes the syllabus, etc, not the registrar. It would be helpful to have a registrar representative present to talk more about this subject in a future meeting. Senbet noted that it should be emphasized that the course must have been taken outside of the United States, not at UNC.
- b. As for the differences between our LAC criteria and the State criteria, there is not much difference except for the stringent definition of written communication. Here's what was found:
 - i. Area 1 - same
 - ii. Area 2 – same
 - iii. Area 3a, b,c additional requirements to written communication (a,b,c, d) and the states say 1 OR 2 we say 1 and 2
 - iv. Area 3d – same
 - v. Area 4 – additional requirements to written communication (a,b,c,d)
 - vi. Area 5 a,b,c- additional requirements to written communication (a,b,c,d)
 - vii. Area 6- same
 - viii. Area 7 & 8 - these are all our requirements
 - ix. *DISCUSSION*: In regard to iii, is there anything that LAC can do with English to shore up the concern with under preparedness? Varner said no,

that he has tried. However, this issue is currently being addressed by Marcus Embry, the English Department Chairperson, who has formed a First-Year Writing Committee. The requirement is not a State requirement, but a council requirement. Is there a possibility that the writing requirement would be area-specific?

x. *DECISION*: Subject was deferred for a future meeting.

c. Council Vacancies – Deferred until the next meeting.

New Business

7. gtPathways Flow Chart – Deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Chair

Abigail Pekar, Recording Secretary