



LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL

16 September 2014 – 3:30 p.m.
South Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

Attendees: Baird, Bentz, Boyce, Fitzpatrick, Martinez, Reardon, Senbet, Smith, Trelogan, Urbach, Weber

Absent: Blair, Fong, Spahr, Varner

Guests: Couch, Sharp, Vaughan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Announcements

Approval of the Minutes from the 9/2 Meeting

The spelling of Urbach's name was corrected; Trelogan and Vaughan proposed amendments to some of the other language. The 9/2 minutes were approved with that correction and those amendments.

Regular Reports

Chair's Report

UNC has notified the CDHE that it will be submitting five courses for the F/14 round of gtPathways reviews: GEOG 250, LEAD 100, MUS 245, MUS 248, and PHIL 140. Anyone willing to volunteer to be a reviewer should contact Ann Bentz.

GE Council Report

October 24th will be This year's Faculty-to-Faculty Conference will be held on Oct. 24. On the agenda: refining the competencies for Mathematics and Communication. The state is working on the language of the Statewide Articulation Agreements. Statewide articulation agreements for geography, philosophy, and horticulture are moving forward.

AVP Report

Regarding the development of student learning outcomes and the assessment of courses, Smith will send out a questionnaire to Chairs and Directors of programs and departments with courses in the core to ask about assessment, etc.

Core Curriculum Committee Reports

No reports.

Old Business

A motion (Trelogan/Fitzpatrick) to table both the planned continued discussion from LAC Retreat (Goals for the Academic Year) and further discussion of communication to the university community (LAC requirements for degree completion, student/advisor responsibilities) for future meetings was unanimously approved.

New Business (Numbered to Indicate the Order in Which Items Appeared in the Agenda)

3. Waiver of Liberal Arts Core Requirements (as stated in the UNC Course *Catalog*)

A motion to change the existing language in the *Catalog* to the following was unanimously approved:

- 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 complete at least one Core course in each of the missing areas.

2. LAC Study Abroad Course

The following questions raised by Sally McBeth were discussed:

ANT 296 [STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE (3)] is described in the catalogue as “engage, through experiential learning, travel, and cultural immersion abroad, in gaining better understanding of other countries’ cultures and cultural heritages and appreciation of the diversity and richness of human societies, S/U Graded. Repeatable, may be taken four times, under different subtitles.”) If ANT chose, could we use this either for a faculty led experience OR an ANT elective for students studying abroad individually? The student could, perhaps, keep a journal of their cross-cultural experiences while studying abroad? I have asked the REGISTRAR about this second question, and they were not sure what to tell me. Do I take this up with curriculum perhaps?

Boyce started off the discussion by asking the Council to think, in the light of these questions, about whether it should consider developing a generic, *university-wide* course to facilitate the use of study-abroad experiences to satisfy the Core requirement of a course in Area 7.

Trelogan argued that if such a course *should* be developed, it should be developed by faculty representing affected and interested departments—not by the Liberal Arts Council itself. Smith suggested that the Council might adopt a policy specifying that faculty-led study-abroad courses could be used to satisfy the Core requirement of a course in Area 7 and then interested departments could develop those courses.

Reardon mentioned a one-credit study-abroad course, one month overseas, in which the students have to keep a regular blog. Perhaps a similar course could be offered up as a generic study-abroad experience that could be applied to the satisfaction of the the Area 7 requirement.

Couch suggested that the Area 7 requirement might simply be changed to read: “Select one course from the following OR complete a study-abroad experience for three hours of credit.” Boyce said that this might work provided that it were expanded to read: “Select one course from the following OR complete a study-abroad experience for three hours of credit that meets the criteria specified by the Liberal Arts Council for courses in Area 7.”

Smith recommended researching ways other universities do this. Urbach volunteered to look into the matter to see what she could find out about how other schools manage this sort of thing.

1. gtPathways

On behalf of the HLC Task Force, Boyce asked the Council to think about the possible desirability of eliminating the requirement that all courses listed in Areas 1–6 of our Core be part of the gtPathways curriculum. He pointed out that:

State legislation requires that all undergraduates be required to complete 31 credits distributed across the six state-specified areas (Communication, Mathematics, Arts & Humanities, History, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Physical and Life Sciences) as part of their undergraduate program.

However, the state does not require campuses to seek gtPathways approval for all courses offered in those areas on their campus. It only requires that it be possible for a student to complete the general education requirements on one campus in a way that would be transferrable to another institution.

Narrowly speaking, this means that we must have at least one gtPathways course approved in each of the six state-specified areas. But we could allow students to use other courses taught on our campus (but not included in gtPathways) to satisfy the requirements for those six areas.

Trelogan observed that we’d need more than just *one* gtPathways course in each of the six state-specified areas to make it possible for students to satisfy our Core requirements with courses all of which would be guaranteed to transfer. He also observed that courses that aren’t in the gtPathways curriculum (*e.g.*, those in the Electives category of our Core) are often not all that well-enrolled.

Vaughan suggested that what would have to be made clear to concerned students and advisers is that nothing *prevents* other institutions within the state from allowing students to transfer in general education courses that are not in the gtPathways curriculum and that most solid courses would most likely be accepted. All the absence of the gtPathways designation means is that a course is not *guaranteed* to transfer to other institutions within the state.

Boyce wondered what the HLC might have to say about this. Bentz replied that as long as UNC has a way to assess its program, whatever it is, it won’t be a problem. The HLC Task Force simply observes that the Core is not in any way distinctively UNC’s. It is

state-dominated. So the question is whether the Council should consider redefining the Core in such a way as to make it into a program that better reflects the character of UNC. As things currently stand, UNC is the only institution that requires all courses in the six state-specified areas to be in the gtPathways curriculum. CU fought the state's original requirement because they wanted their own core, and other institutions have capitalized on the change. Boyce thinks that perhaps UNC needs to do the same.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Travis Boyce
Chair

Abigail Pekar
Recording Secretary