

UNIVERSITY of  
NORTHERN COLORADO



**LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL**

North Hall Conference Room

January 19, 2016

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Fitzpatrick, Urbach, Smith, Baird, Nelson, Markowski, Trelogan, Dickensheets, Martinez, Franklin

Absent: Bentz, Byrnes, Varner, Weber, Sharp, Reardon, Martin, Johnson, Couch

Guests: Black

**Meeting called to order at 3:31p.m.**

**Approval of the Minutes from December 1st**

Minutes accepted with minor revisions.

**Regular Reports**

**Chair's Report (Fitzpatrick)** – No report

**GE Council Report (Bentz)** – No report

**AVP Report (Smith)** – Smith would like to bring the document of his research of Undergraduate Education to the LAC at some point in the semester.

**Core Curriculum Committee Reports** – In Areas 7 & 8, Franklin has been working with her committee on learning outcomes. The committee came up with a draft of learning outcomes. Black suggested that faculty assessment fellows might be willing to meet with area committees that don't have learning outcome statements established yet. Black and Fitzpatrick will coordinate a meeting with the faculty fellows. Fitzpatrick suggested that a meeting during the weeks LAC is not in session might bring a better turnout. Baird suggested that the goal is to take the larger area list and parse it down into 4-5 areas. Fitzpatrick wants to start with LEAP, not Fac-2-Fac results from the State. LEAP and the State are going in the same direction anyway. This is why UNC should follow LEAP as it begins its own process of creating learning outcomes. Fitzpatrick urged another meeting where people can all meet to get the information needed to be on the same page instead of using LAC time to do this. Franklin believes that those teaching the LAC courses should have input. Fitzpatrick agreed. If the LAC and the committees can get together and create the same notion of what they are embarking upon, hopefully the committees will work on what is needed. They can then go to their colleagues to get feedback since they are closer to ground level. Black said that as this process develops, if faculty would like to send out feedback via Qualtrics, to let her know. She will organize these reports for the Council.

**New Business**

**Update on Sharepoint Drive** – All LAC and CCC members have access to the shared drive. If anyone doesn't have access or would like to add a colleague, please let Pekar know.

**Procedure Book** – The book will be a project for the spring 2016 term.

**WICHE Passport Initiative Grant Presentation on 2/16** – UNC was selected as the four-year institution for the WICHE grant. The Passport Project is the "gtPathways" between

states. The grant is interested in how to facilitate general education for students who transfer between states. If schools are a “Passport” and students transfer to a “Passport” institution, students will get guaranteed credit for their course work. UNC will be asked to select courses that fit the Passport Initiative and recruit faculty to teach these courses. WICHE will use the LEAP value rubrics, so it provides UNC a way to test out LEAP and provide compensation to faculty to test it. After the project is over, if UNC feels it is valuable it can apply to be a Passport School. UNC would then be the only four-year Colorado institution with Passport and this could bring more interest to the university. Bob Turner will be visiting the LAC on February 16<sup>th</sup> to talk further about this opportunity.

**Liberal Arts Council Duties & Responsibilities** - The LAC is responsible for developing and maintaining data for the core. Trelogan noted that UNC was so busy getting courses approved for gtP that assessment of core years ago that reports fell by the wayside. Franklin is concerned about transfer credits. The Registrar’s office is building a new database of transfer courses. So they are trying to get caught up and streamlined. However, the problem is the process of approving. The option is always to say “no” to transfer requests. Martinez said that even with the syllabi, it is difficult to assess the course and if there is a UNC equivalency. Right now, Black will bring in a report that will answer what LAC courses are being offered each term, sections, etc. Future reports can be run, specifically one on transfer data if the council would like the information. An annual written report would be useful.

#### **Decisions needed -**

**Suspending applications for courses** Trelogan brought up that the Council not suspend revisions to *current* LAC courses. However, he is in support of suspending new courses until the State decides whatever direction it will go. There will be no new core courses until 18-19 if the Council goes in this direction. Dickensheets brought up that shutting down new LAC courses might cause faculty to lose interest and it might not be beneficial for UNC. Fitzpatrick noted that LAC will have to re-review courses once the State comes back with their new requirements. Trelogan mentioned that departments need to submit in the spring of the year prior to be included in the catalogue. So it might make good sense to not entertain new courses this spring and all of next year or just the fall of next year. Fitzpatrick suggested that spring 2017 would be when the council would begin accepting submissions and this will only take the review process out of order for one full year. Baird brought up the secondary education review from last fall. Could the council include review for urgent changes similar to what was done for education? Criteria for exceptions – licensure, reaccreditation. Council was asked to bring the exceptions for programs to apply for the core to the next meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Creating an LAC curriculum** – Fitzpatrick will attend the AACU conference in February to learn more about curriculum.

**Create procedures for regular assessment of courses in the core**

#### **Old Business**

**F2F documents and discussion** - None

**Syllabus standard update** – The committee will share their report at the next council meeting.

**Institutional data collection** - Fitzpatrick met with Kim Black, Charlie Couch, and Karen Raymond to plan an approach and decided on what needs to be included in a report so as to

facilitate our decision-making related to rearranging the core, etc.

**AY 15-16 Goals**

Rearranging the core

Area Competencies

Course Reviews (ensure that the syllabus and learning outcomes are clearly aligned with  
State competency requirements)

**Comments to the Good of the Order**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:49p.m.**

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Chair

Abby Pekar, Recording Secretary