



LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
1 September 2015, 3:30-5pm
South Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

Attendance: Fitzpatrick, Baird, Nelson, Johnson, Trelogan, Bentz, Markowski, Martinez, Smith, Byrnes

Absent: Urbach

Guests: Vaughan, Couch, Sharp

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm

Announcements

Introductions and Review of Membership

- Baird, Chair of Area 6, NHS; Vaughan, UNIV 101, UC; Nelson, HSS; Bentz, Provost's Office, GEC Rep; Smith, Associate Provost, Dean of UC; Johnson, HSS; Markowski, Libraries; Trelogan, Chair of Area 3 (part), HSS; Martinez, EBS; Byrnes, PVA; Sharp, Assistant Registrar; Couch, Registrar

Regular Reports

Chair's Report (Fitzpatrick):

- *Notes from Academic Policy Committee (APC).* Subjects to be discussed this year are academic integrity and concern about the different ways integrity is being dealt with. Some policy changes may be forthcoming. Central reporting agency such as Dean of Students to detect serial cheaters. Issues concerning transfer evaluations such as the lack of evaluating transfer courses in a timely manner and the harm this does to students. Ten year rule will also be discussed this year.

GE Council Report (Bentz):

- *Fac-to-Fac for fall of 2015.* This conference is 2 days and will include a review of competency and content criteria for all gtP categories. The State is asking for consistency with faculty representation as a way to build on the progress made during the spring F2F. UNC is missing a representative from Content Area 6. It is critical that UNC participates because the changes will affect all UNC gtP courses. Trelogan is concerned that there aren't enough faculty from each area. Nelson agreed that UNC should send people from each discipline, not just each area. Byrnes's impression was that they are looking at the workforce readiness and using this as building blocks for competency criteria. Nelson really wants to encourage UNC faculty to participate. There are obstacles to this since the conference is two days, however. Vaughan is worried about each area will be assigned competencies that may not cleanly fall into the areas. Every 2-year and every 4-year must be present at this meeting. Vaughan suggested that faculty divide up the days. But as Bentz said, the State really wants the same faculty both days.

- *Kim Black* has been a crucial part of what is going on at the State with regard to assessment. Bentz asked if the council would welcome Black to all future LAC meetings. Fitzpatrick saw no reason to vote and that Black should be welcome to participate.
- *AP, CLEP credit for prior learning.* The State wants HE institutions to consider a common cut score. Once UNC data are analyzed faculty discussions may be needed. The State has developed webinars to assist faculty in the discussions about AP and IB. Bentz asked that the Council read through her handout and **RSVP by September 18th**. The Lieutenant Governor wants data that supports why schools want a cut score of 4 instead of 3. Bentz will share the data once it is available. *Statewide Articulation Agreements.* All the areas that don't have SAA need transfer guides. To assist clarity from a student point of view, the CDHE has developed templates.
- *Spring 2015 Review.* The State asked all faculty gtP reviewers to respond to the question "Is the course a legitimate general education course?". Bentz shared the results of that survey.

AVP Report (Smith):

- *Flaws of the gtP.* GtPathways constructed **without overarching** broad outcomes. State has done the same thing with regard to gtP too. This was a weakness brought to UNC's attention by the accreditors last year. *This year, Smith wants the LAC* to adopt the LEAP (Liberal Education in America's Promise) framework for the overarching learning outcomes. By doing this, it would lessen the burden on Core Committees. Value Rubrics have been developed for all the areas already, so the work is pre-vetted and already built for UNC. The State is also going in this direction, so UNC will be ahead of the curve.

Core Curriculum Committee Reports:

- Smith is still trying to fill vacancies for History and International Studies.

New Business

Website and Review of Meeting Dates (Pekar):

- Announcement on the progress of the website. Vaughan made the suggestion to move future LAC meetings to DSS if it is available. Byrnes noted that the March 15 meeting is spring break and should be cancelled.

LAC Structure and Process (Fitzpatrick):

- *Board Policy Review.* Review of mission statement. The GEC is equally important to majors and minors in the education process. LAC has a broad authority and responsibility to deal with the core in a thorough and competent fashion. The core should also exceed the State standards. The LAC has a responsibility to review and make recommendations for courses to the core. But that isn't all the LAC does. LAC can review and make recommendations to the state, too. In the past, courses were recommended that didn't get approved by the State. Fitzpatrick wants to avoid this from here on out. The Council has the power to make recommendations to update the core. The Council needs to develop and maintain the data to demonstrate that UNC is meeting the criteria of a liberal arts university. A Chair and Vice Chair is elected by the Council members. Pekar will put together a list of who is elected, appointed, and their area of responsibility (CCC list). These people will review new courses for the core, but also the area competencies (LEAP). It is the Council's job to convince faculty that there is a need for change in the core and serving on the LAC and CCC is

an important level of service. Fitzpatrick wants people to volunteer their service. There are no limits of time for people serving on the CCC. If there are elected faculty to the CCC areas who are not helping, then Smith wants to know. Smith suggested writing something in the bylaws mentioning the expectation of CCC service. Trelogan suggested getting the Chairs and/or directors to encourage their faculty to participate. It should also be made aware by the people reviewing faculty for tenure, etc. Smith will begin communicating this to the faculty leaders.

AY 15-16 Goals

- *Area Competencies.* With LEAP template, the review of area competencies will go easier. Faculty can map their area comps to the LEAP comps. Smith will do a presentation at the next LAC meeting.
- *Course Reviews.* The Council will begin paring down the core. It will also ensure that the syllabus and learning outcomes are clearly aligned with State competency requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm (Trelogan/Martinez)