



Liberal Arts Council

Council Meeting
Campus Commons 2204
February 15, 2022 3:30-5:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Present: Beals (McMahan), Denny, Geisendorfer, Houston, Kraver, Leatherman, Matchett, McClatchey, Muller, Smith, Steele, Uglean Jackson, Urbach, Wood, Yamprai

Absent: Beyers, Staton

Guest: Couch

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (02/01/2022)

Approved without objection.

Announcements

Reports

• **Chair's Report** (Wood)

- Reminder to CCC Chairs about indirect assessment timeline and materials, available in the Assessment Sub-Committee folder in SharePoint.
 - See 2/15/2022 Chair's Report in SharePoint.

• **Standing Reports**

- *GE Council* (Matchett)
 - Two discussions at this month's meeting raised important considerations about curriculum design:
 1. Several proposed gtP courses fall outside the assumed disciplinary distribution requirements.
 - Two Education prefix courses from Western Colorado University were flagged by CDHE after being approved on their campus for inclusion in GT-SS3 because education is not a standard social science discipline. The GE Council affirmed that they should be included so long as they meet the GT-SS3 content criteria and competencies.
 - Three new courses from MSUD were approved for gtP, including an English course (Disability Rhetoric) for GT-SS3.
 - GT-AH1: THE 2295 Comedy In-Print and On-Stage (3)
 - GT-AH3: PHI 1060 Ethics in Medicine and Science (3)
 - GT-SS3: ENG 2513 Disability Rhetoric (3)
 2. Advanced Placement's (AP) inquiry regarding gtP credit to their proposed Intro to African American Studies raised questions about whether a course could be



included in more than one gtP category and about the relationship of state General Education requirements to state DEI goals.

- The GE Council affirmed that two category inclusion was permissible only if the course could be shown to fulfill all content and competency requirements in both/all categories for which it was seeking inclusion (which is unlikely).
- There was also discussion about whether offering automatic gtP credit for African American Studies AP would grow/support African American Studies programs at colleges or make it more difficult for institutions to support African American Studies programs, since faculty/programs are sustained by enrollment in general education offerings. In general, 2- and 4-yr institutions split on this question.
- The State showed no desire to change the general structure of general education/gtP requirements but may look into adding a DEI component to the already existing gtP structure, similar to how UNC has IS/MS designations that attach to Arts & Humanities, History, and Social & Behavioral Sciences.
- Other points/considerations from the GE Council meeting
 1. Some Colorado institutions allow their general education courses to fill more than one local general education category. Many of these courses hold one gtP designation, but they may satisfy multiple local general education requirements.
 2. There are four revised STAAs that are about to be certified. CMU is not able to comply with the revised structure of one, and there are calls to potentially exempt CMU from the structures. No decision was reached about making such an allowance. In general, all four years are required to participate in STAAs if they offer the 4-year degree.
 3. UNC programs tend to incorporate a lot of 100/200 level courses, many of which double count for LAC/gtP credit. This creates challenges for transfer students, especially within STAAs, and raises questions about whether our grads are well prepared with sufficient upper division coursework.
- *AVP of Undergraduate Studies (Matchett)*
 - Summer Bridge program: this is an intensive summer residency program offered to incoming first-year student athletes. The program is funded through the budget of the AVP of Undergraduate Studies. It involves a dedicated pairing of LIB 150 (1 credit) and a 3-credit LAC course. It's paired with student athletic co-curricular support and designed to help student athletes become attuned to the balance of collegiate athletics and academics.
 - We want to get a process in place for the selection of the Summer Bridge LAC course offering. UGC discussed sending a call to faculty for self-nominations and bringing the selection process to the Schultze Chair. Does the Liberal Arts Council want a say in the selection process?

DISCUSSION:

- Members discussed the value of the program in preparing student athletes for academic success and agreed that it is important to bring inter-college awareness about the LAC teaching opportunity in the program.
- Matchett can provide the Council with a proposal document outlining program information and details about the faculty application process.
- The Council will review the document and make a decision about Council involvement at the next meeting.
- *Core Curriculum Committee Reports*
 - **Written Communication & World Languages (Wood)** – We have items under



unfinished business.

- **History, Literature, & Humanities** (Smith) – No Report.
- **Philosophy & the Arts** (Yamprai) – We have items under new business.
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences** (McMahan) – No Report.
- **Mathematics & Natural Sciences** (Steele) – No Report.
- **International & Multicultural Studies** (Kraver) – No Report.
- *Ad Hoc Committee Reports*
 - **Assessment & Curriculum** (Wood) – We have an item under unfinished business.
 - **Outreach & Communication** (Kraver) – No Report.

Unfinished Business

• **Course Mapping expectations**

- The Council continued discussion about what expectations to set for course mapping on LAC teaching syllabi.
- Wood provided a course mapping proposal for Council review, including a sample of the mapping chart.

DISCUSSION:

- Considerations include:
 - Potential differences between expectations for teaching syllabi versus model/exemplar syllabi used in the curriculum approval process
 - Establishing a baseline for mapping requirements while allowing faculty to have more extensive mapping if they wish
 - Showing representative assignments for each element versus an exhaustive listing of how every assignment aligns
 - Listing what assignments meet what requirements versus providing detail about how assignments meet requirements
 - Balancing ease-of-review without being overly prescriptive
- The Council ultimately agreed that the sample in Wood’s proposal demonstrated adequate mapping expectations for indirect assessment: using a sample assignment and giving a brief description about how the requirement is met.

SLO (or Content Criteria)	Example Course Mapping/Alignment
Written Communication SLO 4b: <i>Follow an appropriate documentation system</i>	e.g., Discourse Analysis Essay requires 3 source citations and week 5 includes instruction in both APA and MLA

- Add language to the proposal to let instructors know they may do more extensive course mapping than this if they wish.
- While current LAC syllabus standards already require showing clear alignment to competencies, SLOs, and content criteria, specifically *requiring* the course mapping chart is a departure from *recommending* the use of the course mapping chart, as was the case in the review cycle last year.

MOTION: Wood – It is moved to accept course mapping proposal with the sample course mapping as presented and the addition of revised language letting instructors know they can provide more detailed course mapping if they wish.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

- The Council will communicate the findings and requests for syllabus updates to units at the end of the semester.

• **Indirect Assessment reporting – Written Comm & World Languages**

- Courses under review: ENG 122, ENG 123, ENG 225, and ENG 323.
- The Council reviewed the Written Communication & World Languages CCC’s findings,



which included tables cataloging each review element that show where updates are needed.

MOTION: Wood – It is moved to accept the WC&WL CCC recommendations regarding the indirect assessment findings.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

New Business

- **Indirect Assessment reporting – Philosophy & the Arts**

- Courses under review: ART 181, ART 182, ART 185, ART 190, ART 290, FILM 120, HUM 130, and MUS/ASIA 248.

- The Council reviewed the Philosophy & the Arts CCC's findings, which included tables cataloging each review element that show where updates are needed.

MOTION: Yamprai – It is moved to accept the P&A CCC recommendations regarding the indirect assessment findings.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Wood – Where appropriate, include the CDHE statement in the recommendation list of items that need to be added to the syllabi.

- Yamprai accepted the friendly amendment.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Comments for the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Tara Wood
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary