



Liberal Arts Council

Council Meeting
Campus Commons 2204
September 21, 2021 3:30-5:00 p.m.
MINUTES

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

Absent:

Guest: Couch

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:38pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (8/31/2021)

Approved without objection.

Announcements

Reports

• **Chair's Report** (Wood)

- Indirect assessment memos will be sent by end of September to notify units with courses up for review next Spring.
- The LAC video project has been initiated with JMS interns under Shawn Montano.
- LAC bylaws will be reviewed by Codification this week; we can expect to have those ready for review at the next LAC meeting.
- Learning outcomes and syllabus templates are available on the curriculum approval process page of the LAC website; please share these resources with your colleagues.
 - Smith shared a helpful email among unit leaders in History, Literature, and Humanities. We will add his message to the SharePoint in case other members would like to use it as a template.
- We are seeking another Council member to join the assessment sub-committee.

• **Standing Reports**

- *GE Council* (Matchett) – GE Council met last week. They are looking at the possibility of streamlining transferability across multiple states. Think of it like extending gtP across state lines, so students can know how courses would transfer at institutions in other states. There is evidence that the ability to transfer across institutions and states helps increase degree attainment especially for underserved populations. Also, a couple new gtP courses were approved.
- *AVP of Undergraduate Studies* (Matchett) – The internal application for the Schulze Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies will be posted soon. There is a strong preference for tenured faculty to apply; we are looking for those with experience in teaching



interdisciplinary studies and/or honors program courses. Schulze funding will buy the incumbent out of some time in their home units. We are working with deans to make appropriate adjustments to the academic portfolio in pursuit of becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). A new UNC HSI website is now live.

○ *Core Curriculum Committee Reports*

- **Written Communication & World Languages** (Wood) – No Report.
- **History, Literature, & Humanities** (Smith) – No Report.
- **Philosophy & the Arts** (Yamprai) – Is there a limit on the number of courses allowed in any designation?
 - There are no limits imposed on number of courses in any designation. If a course meets the criteria for inclusion, then it should be approved.
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences** (McMahan) – Chris McMahan will be attending LAC meetings and reporting on behalf of Beals and the SBS CCC.
- **Mathematics & Natural Sciences** (Steele) – We are waiting for the lecture syllabus for a course relating to an appeal that is under review. We will make a recommendation in time for the 10/5 meeting.
 - Couch noted the student says the syllabus is forthcoming.
- **International & Multicultural Studies** (Kraver) – No Report.

○ *Ad Hoc Committee Reports*

- **Assessment & Curriculum** (Wood) – No Report.
- **Outreach & Communication** (Kraver) – We had a meeting with Shawn Montano and his three interns in JMS, who are willing this semester to put together a video for the LAC. They had questions about what the desired content of the video is and who is the target audience.

DISCUSSION:

- Personalized education grounded in liberal arts is part of the University's strategic plan.
- The video should speak to the big picture value of the Curriculum, targeting a student/parent audience.
 - Developing a meaningful path in the Curriculum as an intellectual journey, rather than just a checklist of requirements to be met
 - Examples of how Curriculum courses contribute to development in a student's major
 - Include faculty and professional voices to highlight the value of Curriculum courses as they kindle student passions and translate into real-world competencies/skills/connections
- Brainstorm on filming locations: Deerfield community, field excursions, labs, etc.
- Matchett will share an article "Only Connect" that examines the goals of a liberal arts education.
- Muller offered to be the liaison to the LAC video project.

Unfinished Business

New Business

• **IS/MS New Outcomes Course Review Process**

- IS/MS student learning outcomes were significantly revised at the end of the last



academic year.

- Kraver asked the Council to deliberate on the most appropriate way to get all current IS/MS courses up to date with the new requirements.
 - Option A: Let the indirect assessment process address the issue via syllabus audit over the five-year review cycle.
 - Option B: Reach out to units with IS/MS courses to give notification that SLOs have been updated.
 - Option C: Request all IS/MS courses be resubmitted in the curriculum workflow this Fall. (This would inundate the Council with course review beyond the usual review load.)
 - Option D: Send staggered requests to units to pace out the review burden, prioritizing IS/MS courses required for Education programs.

DISCUSSION:

- The Council should alert campus to the updated SLOs now, so units know to update their syllabi. This will reduce the number of courses still carrying old outcomes.
- Perhaps a combination of A & B: Notify units that IS/MS SLOs have changed, so they can go ahead with making updates, and then the indirect assessment process will catch any courses with old outcomes.
- For IS/MS courses that are required for Education majors, they could be asked to update as a condition to remain as a major requirement.
- Additionally, the IS/MS CCC wants to evaluate whether SLOs are being met, including how course assignments are tied to the SLOs.
 - Kraver presented assessment charts for IS and MS designations.
 - The charts will be used by the CCC to assess how well a course addresses SLOs; they are separate from the syllabus.
 - The CCC would like for the charts to be a requirement for any courses carrying or seeking IS/MS designations.
 - The assessment charts will be published on the curriculum approval process webpage, alongside the SLO documents and syllabus templates.
 - Kraver and the CCC will work on an example chart and example syllabus to model how the materials should be presented.

Comments for the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

Tara Wood
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary