

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
North Hall Conference Room
February 7, 2017

MINUTES

Attendance: Fitzpatrick, Franklin, Johnson, Markowski, Iannacchione, Nelson, Byrnes, Black, Baird, Geisendorfer, Kraver, Milstead, Urbach, Smith

Call to Order at 3:30pm

Approval of Agenda

The Registrar question about LAC 7 and 8 has been resolved. Change agenda to remove it. Byrnes would like to move up MUS 152. Will address after announcements. Approved as revised

Approval of Minutes from 06 December 2016

Approved

Chair's Report (Fitzpatrick)

Senate: University is changing regulations for tenure appeals. Note that there is only one provision for tenure appeal; it can only be appealed on the basis if there is a misfit between the interpretation of what a faculty member did and what was used in the faculty member's evaluation per what the department requires. Fitzpatrick and Pekar met with Stacy and Michelle in Registrar's office to work on cleaning up the LAC catalog. During the meeting it was discovered that the LAC course criteria document is misaligned with student learning outcomes as revised during the past year. The Course Criteria were last updated in 2009, so we have taken it offline.

Announcements

Deadline for Spring '17 Re-review of courses for Areas 1 through 8 is March 17th. Selection of courses for re-review should have already happened. We have received lists from most areas but are still missing some. If list has not been sent, please do so ASAP. Only 25% of courses need to be submitted for re-review. Re-review notifications should come from core committees.

17-Mar-17 First draft of updated syllabus (CCCs must review within 2 weeks)

14-Apr-17 CCCs Review any resubmitted syllabi. Final comments on all syllabi prepared.

02-May-17 LAC vote on all syllabi

Standing Reports

GE Council Report (Bentz)

No report

AVP Report (Smith)

Two weeks from today on the 21st of February from 11:30-1 there will be the Teaching and Learning Fair. Michael Wesch from Kansas State University will be the keynote speaker. The presentation is called Teaching Upside Down. If interested, reserve a spot through CETL.

Core Curriculum Committee Reports

Areas 1 and 2- Milstead finished classes for re-review. Math sent syllabi for MATH 185 and MATH 186 2/7/17. Both will be forwarded to Abby.

Area 3- Trelogan was not present, and Fitzpatrick has not heard from the area.

Area 4- Wieben was not present.

Area 5- Newman was not present, but Nelson said that the re-review is underway and they have given Fitzpatrick their list. Colleen received complaint from a person who serves on the faculty senate, and they believe there is an issue of whether LAC has the right to require some of the things the council wants to put in the syllabi. University regulations are a bare minimum but the council has the right to exceed those requirements. The person can either re-submit syllabi or not be in the core. LAC agrees.

Area 6- Baird and Fitzpatrick met with Dean Gregg, and she found members to fill committee. Area 6 Committee met last Monday and started on re-review. They modified the list of what courses to re-review based on what persons are on the committee and are ready to set SLOs for Area 6. They would like some input with from Assessment to make sure the SLOs are consistent with gtP and are also easily accessible. Black offered that if any core committees would like feedback or assistance that she, Julie Sexton, and Lyda McCartin are available to help.

Area 7 and 8- Finished SLOs. They have been meeting with curriculum committee to figure out a plan of how areas fit within the redesign of LAC. One faculty member will take the lead on developing a master syllabus. They have a meeting next week with Modern Languages.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Assessment

The Assessment Fellows have finalized their analyzes of what has been learned from data analysis and they are putting together information. They also analyzed info from other campuses and will be making recommendations with suggestions for a pilot program next fall. At the March 7th LAC meeting the ad hoc committee will bring recommendations for a pilot assessment. Richard Newmark has resigned but has offered to try to find a replacement.

Curriculum

See the proposal under New Business.

Outreach & Communication

The Committee a Facebook page that the Council can link to whatever they want. They are also preparing a survey to give to students in LAC classes that will assess knowledge of LAC and how they choose their classes. Alison Grant can assist with institutional surveys. Assessment has an institutional survey policy for when more than 200 people are surveyed. Franklin stated that we need publicity directed towards faculty to emphasize positive aspects of LAC. A suggestion was also made to survey faculty. A challenge is reaching all faculty members. Black stated that if we want to do surveys with faculty her office can assist with that and can request a contact list to distribute them. Also, if the council needs any assistance in setting up conversation groups, that can be done as well. Tabling discussion, but another topic is how would to communicate the value of the core.

Policies & By-Laws

The Committee met with Colleen last week. Volunteered that Outreach and Communication could send out new policies that faculty needs to know about. Discussed making ad hoc committees permanent. Curriculum is having a meeting on the 21st that the Policies & By-Laws group would like to sit in on (others are welcome to join as well). They will be having the meeting in the North Hall conference room so that people can sit in if they wish. The council also needs to recruit an undergraduate student for the council to fulfill policy requirements. They usually recruit people from student senate. Smith will contact student senate.

New Business

Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee - Proposal (Kyle Nelson)

State requires 31 credits in LAC. Could possibly lower number of credits. 34-37 credits are outlined on the proposal. It is also a possibility to reduce number of credits in each area. So far in Areas 1, 2, and 4 there are no changes. Could decide to accept 100 level language classes for fulfilling Area 3d. It was also suggested that one course could fulfill two areas. Another task is trying to make sure that the checklist aligns with catalog. Angela Steele pointed out that the “prefix” is the preferred term instead of “major” on the second to last bullet point on the curriculum handout. This will require an exception for English majors. Fitzpatrick would like them to make a mock curriculum by taking the original checklist and making it look how they would like. The Curriculum ad hoc committee should also get feedback on handout from Nelson from every department. Should remove “max” from wording and say 34-37 credits minimum. Nelson will edit document and send it back out.

Update *LAC Course Criteria* document

Should we require that **all** courses in our Core be gtP designated? Or, should we be willing to have courses in the Core that are not gtP?

Refer to catalog pg. 65 under **Basic Core Courses** "Note that Basic Core Courses bearing the designation "gtP" have all been approved for inclusion in gtPathways. Basic Core Courses not bearing the designation have all been nominated for gtPathways. . . ."

Areas 1-6 should all be gtP, but not every course should have to be gtP. Colleen would like permission to make a catalog change to take out portion that says all courses are gtP. Restricting faculty to gtP in LAC could stifle innovation of faculty. No objections to removing constraining language from the catalog.

Action Items

Course Nomination Form (Brianne Markowski)- Ran out of time, so this is on the top of agenda for the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Review LAC approval packets approval:

Re-review Areas 1 & 2

BA 205 minor revisions requested

MUS 152 minor revisions requested (Deborah Kaufman)

The pre-requisite should be the same as MUS 123, but the problem is that when it's looked up in catalog it said it was closed to other majors except for Music and Performing Arts. When presented to council, it was discussed that that is not reasonable for a course to be allowed in the LAC. According to Kaufman, all students should be able to pass the class without special knowledge of field and she is fine with removing wording about student restrictions. It has also been changed to PVA 152 and needs to be changed in the catalog. Byrnes would like to know where the communication should be coming from if there are issues. When a course is newly purposed and sent back for revision, Abby is usually the one who submits the form back to original department with an explanation of what needs to be redone. Once the committee passes it, Abby would inform originating department that it's been passed. The question was posed if the council should put the process for re-review on the website.

Comments to the Good of the Order

None

Adjournment at 5:00pm