

Liberal Studies Oversight Committee  
Minutes  
10-2-06

Attendees Present: Brent Kinser, Tracy Zontek, Luther Jones, Melissa Wargo, Brian Dinklemeyer, Peter Nieckarz, Tammy Haskett (guest), Terry Michelsen, Beth Tyson-Lofquist, Kari Hensley

- Approval of Minutes from the 9/25 meeting  
Minutes were approved after brief discussion of Sloan Despeaux's guest appearance and the overall goals of the upcoming C2 assessment this semester.
- Introductions with guests  
According to Brent Kinser an invitation was extended to Beth Huber and Liz Kelly of the English Dept but due to schedule conflicts they were unable to attend.  
Tammy Haskett was invited to attend our meeting and asked to share insight as well as feedback in reference to the freshman reading book. Tammy was welcomed and we thank her for her support.
- Discussion with Tammy Haskett on integration of freshman reading with C1  
It was brought to the attention of the LSOC, after reviewing the C1 assessment results, that the freshman reading selection book, was not being utilized within the ENGL 101 courses. The question was asked from the assessment group why the book was not being mandated. Tammy Haskett shared some historical data about the freshman reading book.
  - The process started in 1998 within the Student Affairs group and was eventually turned over to Tammy when she became the Director of Orientation.
  - The book is chosen by the Reading Committee and lists of this year's members were distributed by Tammy to the LSOC members.
  - How are the reading committee members chosen? They are nominated by the college deans and are volunteers within the University with blended interests.
  - How are the books themselves chosen by the Reading Committee? Nominations are made from various people within the University and the RC usually narrows the lists down to 8-10 books that the RC then reads and based on feedback and votes a book is chosen. Tammy shared that she is the Committee Chair however she does not vote. It is important that the emphasis be on the student input and completely chosen by the committee and not her.
  - How much is usually spent on the freshman reading book? It varies, if paperback is available it is much less but this past year over \$33,000 was spent. The book chosen, Frank McCourt's

*Teacher Man* was only available in hardback and cost \$15 each multiplied by 2200 ordered. \*The budget covering these books is not state funded but revenue based.

- Is there any kind of requirement, focus, or follow-up? No, it is required of Tammy to purchase the books and distribute them during Orientation but it is not mandatory for the students to read it or follow up on it. There is no set assignment or consequence to those that don't read it.
- Is there any information or statistics anywhere to show how many actually read the books? No "official" statistics have been researched but Elizabeth "Liz" Kelly in the English dept has done some surveying of her own.

A suggestion was made to Tammy that she propose to the Reading Committee the development of questions from the reading book to help incorporate the book into ENGL 101 courses. The LSOC also will propose to the UCC that the Freshman Reading Book be an additional part of the LS document which could result in a more specific use of the book.

Proposals to the ENGL dept:

- Make Freshman Reading Book part of ENGL 101 courses
  - Invite Dept Head Elizabeth Addison to the meetings to discuss options and implementation of the Freshman Reading within the dept.
  - Make Freshman Reading Book part of LS document.
- Update on C3 assessment (any news Luther?).  
Will Delaney, Director of Oral Communications, will be attending next weeks meeting.
  - Other Items (not on the agenda)  
CMHC 415 was distributed to preview as a P6 ULP course, it was briefly discussed and it was mentioned that a syllabus was needed before a decision could be made.