Minutes of the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC)
February 21, 2011
University Center, Dogwood Room

Members Present: Alexander Macaulay (Chair), Brent Kinser, Carol Burton, Shannon Thompson, Steve Baxley, Tracy Zontek, Anna Craft, Peter Tay

Members Absent: Gayle Wells, Robert Mulligan

Guest: Mark Lord

Recorder: Ricky Lanning

1. Approval of minutes from February 7, 2011 LSC meeting
   a. The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Alex. The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the February 7, 2011 LSC meeting. Alex brought the minutes from the meeting before the committee and they were subsequently approved. The minutes are now available on the LSC website for viewing.

2. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Program with guest Mark Lord
   a. Dr. Mark Lord was introduced to the committee as a guest. Dr. Lord is the Department Head of the Geosciences and Natural Resources Department. He is also a professor of Geology. The committee invited Dr. Lord to the meeting as a means to gauge his general impression of how well the liberal studies program meets its stated goals. Dr. Lord expressed that one of the goals of his department’s liberal studies courses is to present “Science for Citizens”. That is to provide students with a broad overview of how science is important to them individually and to the overall culture of society. Dr. Lord stated that his department was adamant about the value of liberal studies and that liberal studies courses were critical to the education of his students. Dr. Lord spoke of the challenges of no lab component being a part of First-Year Seminar courses and how First-Year Seminar courses can be utilized for recruitment of majors. Dr. Lord believes that it is important that our university build a culture that says liberal studies courses do matter in the long term. Dr. Lord spoke about how a proposed Liberal Studies handbook for faculty would be of great value.
3. Discussion of HSCC 130 to 190 AA5
   a. The committee members were provided an updated HSCC 190 FYS syllabus from committee member Tracy Zontek. The committee members discussed the updated syllabus and a motion to accept the course was made and seconded. The committee members voted unanimously to approve the course pending the change of the course name. Alex also informed the committee that he has had no response or update concerning the proposed social work course from the previous committee meeting.

4. Presentation of enrollment trends for the Liberal Studies program
   a. The next agenda item was an update from Carol and Steve concerning enrollment trends for the Liberal Studies program. A hand-out was provided that detailed the number of seats available for Fall 2011 Liberal Studies courses. Carol also showed the committee how Banner can be used to search for seat availability and overall enrollment numbers for specific courses. A conversation also ensued about how no Fall/Summer 2011 Liberal Studies listing is being created because of uncertainty about course offerings, potential changes to the program, and the lateness in schedule building. The advising center will be directing students to use the course search functions available in the online schedule of classes. This will be more accurate and the students will also be able to check seat availability as well.

5. Old/New Business
   a. Brent provided the committee with a brief update on topics that are being discussed by the Gen Ed Taskforce and how they line up with this committee.

   b. Committee member Anna Craft announced that she leaving the university to pursue other interests. The committee has valued Anna’s service and wished her well.

   c. Alex announced that there will be no Liberal Studies Committee meeting on February 28, 2011 because of Spring Break.

Time of Meeting Adjournment: 5:00p