

Minutes of the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC)
March 28, 2011
University Center, Dogwood Room

Members Present: Alexander Macaulay (Chair), Brent Kinser, Carol Burton, Shannon Thompson, Robert Mulligan, Peter Tay, Gayle Wells, Tracy Zontek, Susan Metcalf

Members Absent: Steve Baxley

Guests: A.J. Grube and Larry Hammer

Recorder: Ricky Lanning

1. Approval of minutes from the March 14, 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 March 14, 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. (<http://www.wcu.edu/10946.asp>).
2. Introduction of new committee member:
 - a. Susan Metcalf was introduced to the committee as a new member. Susan replaces Anna Craft. Ms. Metcalf is a reference librarian in the Hunter Library and she also serves as a social sciences liaison.
3. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Program with guest A.J. Grube:
 - a. The third agenda item was a continuation of the committee's desire to gather feedback from different department representatives and to hear input on the Liberal Studies Evaluation process. Today's guest was A.J. Grube. A.J. is the head of WCU's Department of Business Administration and Law, and Sports Management. A.J. informed the committee that she had polled her faculty for their feedback prior to her visit today and she says the overall consensus of the faculty she spoke with is that they are happy with the Liberal Studies program. One item of note was the request that the Liberal Studies master checklist be updated to remove courses that are no longer being offered. Alex spoke about how that concern has been raised before and Carol then spoke about how the Liberal Studies course deletion process currently works. Alex spoke about the handbook that is being developed and A.J. believes that the handbook would be useful.
 - b. A.J. spoke about how her department would like to see more summer offerings for Liberal Studies. She likes the concept of first-year seminar courses and is currently in the process of developing a first-year seminar course.

- c. A conversation ensued about how A.J. would not recommend any radical changes to the Liberal Studies curriculum. She spoke about how the advising center sessions for faculty are very helpful. The group then spoke in general terms about distance student availability for liberal studies courses.
 4. Discussion of ULP and Degree Audit:
 - a. Guest Larry Hammer of the Registrar's office was introduced to speak about upper level perspectives courses and the degree audit process. Larry provided a handout that outlined the change in ULP language over the course of the 2005, 2007, and 2008 catalogs. A conversation ensued concerning the thinking behind the changes. Larry then went on to speak about the audit process and the exclusion process based on prefix. Alex brought forth a motion, which was subsequently seconded, that the committee vote to support the current system that Larry has in place wherein decision makers have the ability to make individual exceptions. The committee voted unanimously on this issue in favor of the motion.
 - b. Brent made a motion that the committee add an expression of concern about departments dictating courses of study and thus requiring specific liberal studies courses for specific majors with the end result being students having no choice in which liberal studies courses to take. The motion was seconded and the final vote was 6 in favor with 2 opposed.
 5. Old/New Business: Carol presented the committee with an AA-4 for ENG199. The AA-4 detailed the change in course description. The committee approved the change in course description unanimously. Carol then presented the group with an AA-5 outlining a new first-year seminar course (EDPY-190 FYS) that she approved through her ability to approve course in a one-time emergency situation. The AA-5 was brought before the committee for information only. Carol then spoke briefly about Fall 2011 enrollment numbers.

Time of Meeting Adjournment: 5:00p