

**Minutes of the September 10, 2002 Meeting
Liberal Studies Oversight Committee (LSOC)**

Members Present: Millie Able, Jim Costa, Mark Couture, Fred Hinson, Marsha Holmes, Kathy Hosig, Don Livingston, Will Peebles, Richard Starnes, and Charles Wallis

Members Absent: None

Guest: Dr. Daryl Hale, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion

Associate Vice Chancellor Fred Hinson, the chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 2: 10 p.m. in the Rogers Room in the University Center and welcomed new members to the committee. Members then introduced themselves.

The minutes of the May 8, 2002 meeting were approved.

Freshman Seminars: Dr. Hinson reported that adequate resources are available to offer two freshman seminars during the spring 2003 semester if the LSOC agrees that such seminars should be offered then. The LSOC agreed that these seminars should be offered next spring. Twelve students, will be allowed to enroll initially in each seminar, with more seats being added as needed. These seminars will be offered by the Psychology and Engineering Technology Programs. Enrollment will be based on a first come, first serve basis. It was duly noted that the LSOC is responsible for deciding whether or not freshman seminars will be offered during spring semesters, and that the Advising Center is responsible for implementing such decisions.

Projectors for the core Communications course in the Liberal Studies Program: Dr. Hinson reported that funds to purchase four overhead projectors for use in the Liberal Studies core communications course had been provided by the Administration. This is a signal, Dr. Hinson noted, that the Administration is fully supportive of the Liberal Studies Program and its needs. Don Livingston pointed out for the record that Dr. Hinson played an instrumental role in securing the money (around \$21,000) needed to purchase these projectors.

Regarding the process for modifying the Liberal Studies Program: The process is as follows. A proposal advocating a change or changes in the Program will be forwarded to the LSOC from an originating unit, normally a department or program. The LSOC will consider the proposal and take a vote. If the LSOC approves such a proposal, the proposal will be sent to the Council on Instruction and Curriculum for consideration. If the Council agrees with the recommendation of the LSOC, the proposal will be sent to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Hinson brought this process to the attention of the LSOC since such proposals are likely to be presented to the LSOC for consideration this fall.

Enrollment in Upper Level Perspective Courses: Dr. Daryl Hale, the Head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, appeared before the LSOC to discuss the upper level perspective requirement of the Liberal Studies Program. Dr. Hale articulated his position that strong students at the sophomore rank should be allowed to enroll in 300 level perspective courses. He felt that it was unfair to deny such students the opportunity to take such courses simply because they had not yet completed 45 to 50 hours of course work. Considerable discussion ensued. Several members of the LSOC shared personal experiences and their positions regarding this issue. In the end, the LSOC, upon the

recommendation of Richard Starnes and Will Peebles, reached a consensus that the policy, as stated on page 140 of the 2002-2003 Undergraduate Catalog, should be applied in such instances. That policy states that "Students should not enroll in courses numbered above their class rank without the permission of the department offering the course." Dr. Hinson informed members of the LSOC, immediately after Dr. Hale left the room, that motions should not be made and votes will not be taken until after guests have departed. Dr. Hinson also noted that more upper level Liberal Studies Perspective courses are needed.

Homework Assignment: Dr. Hinson provided members of the LSOC a handout prior to the beginning of the meeting, and at the end of the meeting encouraged the committee to study carefully the proposal, dated August 16, 2002, put forward by a number of colleagues proposing a change in how the sciences (natural) are presently treated by the Liberal Studies Program. Dr. George Desain, a faculty member in the Department of Engineering Technology, will appear before the LSOC at the next meeting to discuss this proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Don Livingston