

LSOC Committee meeting 3/17/08

Present: Peter Nieckarz, Terry Michelsen, Luther Jones, Alex Macaulay, Will Poynter, Brent Kinser, Carol Burton

Guests: Melissa Wargo

Recorder: Joel Knisley

*Minutes from 2/25/08 approved.

Discussion of First Year Seminar Assessment report (guest: Melissa Wargo) **The following points were mentioned:**

- Students are getting most of the objectives from the FYS.
- Area for improvement: Communicating the over-arching role of Liberal Studies to the students, as well as orienting new faculty.
- Class sizes caps need more regulation. There was a bump up to class size of 27, but this was meant to be a one-time occurrence. The seminar format requires smaller class size.
- Suggestion from Assessment Review Team: adopting a common theme for FYS programs with adherence to the theme throughout the First Year experience.

Response from Faculty, continued discussion:

- Some of what was pointed out in the assessment has more to do with the teaching method than with the objectives themselves.
- How does the data in the Assessment apply across disciplines, i.e. from English to Engineering, etc. Response from specific departments is needed.
- Is it possible to tell within a semester if a student has developed "rigorous intellectual habits"? Is it measurable?
- Suggestion: Exit interviews after some time has passed which would give more accurate data concerning students' habits.
- When writing the outcome/objective statements for the syllabi, the first criteria can't be "how will we assess the objectives?"
- Assessments should inform whatever new/modified standards we create. We don't want to scrap the original LS program or "reinvent the wheel".
- A campus forum would be helpful to discuss the assessment findings. The LSOC could chair.
- FTE's could be standardized.
- Make sure that classes that are assessed are taught by established faculty.
- What about a LS faculty fellow?
- In order for faculty to explain the importance of LS to students, faculty must be familiar with it.

*Action item: LSOC accepted the FYS assessment plan and requested that the director of Assessment follow same format as other Liberal Studies categories and create a Professional Development Plan to be implemented by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies.

UNC Tomorrow. Main discussion points:

- The document is still in flux. It's going to the steering committee for further refinement.

- Key initiative: A stronger environment for language development and global awareness.
- Perhaps this could be part of the LS objectives?
- Could students be given life experience credit if they already speak a foreign language?

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Next meeting is Thursday, March 27, 2:30 p.m. Location: UC 322, CSI conference room.