

## Minutes of the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC)

March 10, 2016

ST 338

Members Present: Brent Kinser (Chair), Carol Burton, David Onder, Elizabeth McRae, Erin McNelis, Ethan Schilling, Gayle Wells, James Deconinck, Jen Schiff, Leigh Angel, Paromita Biswas, Randa Hodges, and Sean June

Members Absent: Baldwin Sanders, Damon Sink, Jeanne Dulworth, and Robert Crow

Guests: Lyn Burkett, Kelly Kelley, and Madison Jordan (student)

Recorder: Deidre Hopkins

1. Introductions around the table. Kelly Kelley is in attendance to discuss the SPED 240 proposal. Lyn Burkett is joining the meeting to discuss the MUS 103 proposal. Madison Jordan (student) interviewed Dr. Burton and was invited to attend the meeting to see how the LSC operates.
2. Approval of minutes:
  - The minutes from the January 28, 2016 Liberal Studies Committee meeting were provided to committee members and members were provided the opportunity to review the document. The minutes were subsequently approved.
3. Discussion regarding Transferred Courses from LS Study Abroad Courses - Randa Hodges has been in discussion with the Registrar's office regarding how courses are articulated in and wanted to feedback from the committee. Couple issues in particular:
  - LS Study Abroad Course – when it is approved by a department to come in as a particular class the question is whether that course should be count for whatever LS that class happens to be.
    - For example: MKT 409 was approved by the department for a management major, the question was why the course isn't an Upper Level Perspective? The level of the course where it was taken was not an upper level course. When Randa evaluates LS courses abroad, if it is not apparent by the course number at the university, she asks for more specific information as to the course number. In this particular case, the course was not an equivalent to our MRK 409. This brought up another issue with the Registrar as to how we articulate issues such as this. Jim Gieser, the Study Abroad Adviser, has created a new form study abroad form. In order for a Study Abroad Course to be approved, it must be signed off by the department head and by Randa. Together, Randa and Jim are going to work on creating a database as these type issues comes up with specific courses. This way in the future when it comes up again they will have already researched the Study Abroad course and its WCU equivalent. Randa wants to know how the committee feels about this:
      1. Discussion: what is considered Upper Level Class? Junior/Senior level work, typically by the course number at WCU is a 300-400 level course.

- a. Couple Problems with this particular example with MKT 409: (1) will this keep a student from graduating? (2) even if it was a senior level course, does it meet the outcomes/goals that are established by the LS Program for ULP.
        - i. Up until now, this probably would not have been caught because it would have been articulated at MKT 409 and the degree audit would have picked it up. However, the degree audit is not being read this way any more. They are being evaluated individually.
    2. Suggestion from the Committee is a two step process:
      - a. First Step – to the department to determine that the coursework meets requirements for junior/senior level work.
      - b. Second Step – if the course is matched to an ULP, then it should come to the LSC for approval as an ULP.
        - i. It can be sent informally to the committee Chair and they can determine whether or not it needs to be an agenda item. Some requests that can be easily determined, others will require committee discussion.
  - The NC Community College Articulation Agreement was revisited a couple years ago and there were disciplinary faculty teams who assessed all of the courses. As far as the LS Program, the articulation has been approved and we cannot deny the students credit.
    1. Suggestion – since the degree audit is not picking these courses up, then Randa needs to include on the waiver that as long as it is on the lookup tool it is approved. Courses that are 300 level P1 that do not say ULP will not be considered a ULP.
    2. Why is ES150 not a C5? The Master Sheet indicates which courses are not considered a C5 but ES150 is not one of the exceptions but is not listed as an approved course. The course has a lab so it should qualify. Was it accidentally left off the list? Was it intended to be on the list?
      - a. More than likely the course was developed afterwards and was not included on the list. After consultation with the department if they want it to be included as a C5 then they can send through Curriculog.
4. SPED 240 – The Exceptional Child (Kelly Kelley) – Proposal is to modify the course so it can be included in the LS Program (P1):
  - The course includes the disability community, allows students explore various disability issues, use media (films coming out featuring disabilities), and the UP program is field experience for this course.
  - Consultation with School of Teaching & Learning, Elementary Education, Inclusive Education so education students can be exposed to disability early on. Feel that this course should come in earlier in the course sequence.
    - Question: instead of a scope course on teaching students with disabilities, this course is more of a disability awareness/disability in society course?
      1. Yes, it would be expanded to include disability expert guest speakers, film to make it an ULP and introduce students to each disability.
    - Discussion: The syllabus currently sounds very specific to the major. A P1 course would be a broad/generalization for an entry level type course; covering a broad scope of issues relating to society.

- Suggestion: Refer to the LS Document and look at the objectives of the P1 category and determine whether your course meets any of those objectives. If so, correct the syllabus to reflect those objectives (e.g., emphasis on writing). Do not need to meet all of the goals, but some LS goals and explain how those goals are going to be met.
    1. Jim and Ethan will send Kelly a copy of their P1 syllabus as an example of what a P1 syllabus should look like. Social Work has a great syllabus that addresses P1 in the language.
  - Kelly stated that the department goal is to have this ready for the Fall semester.
    1. Committee feels it will be pretty hard to have this course approved for Fall 2016. Once it leaves LSC it has to go to APRC and then to Faculty Senate.
  - Question: What about the possibility of a SPED 150 (learning community)?
    1. The department has thought about that but hasn't brought it up in a while. Kelly will take this back to the department.
  - Motion was made by Jim Deconinck to not approve SPED 240 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Gayle Wells. No further discussion. All was in favor and motion was carried.
5. PHYS 105 – Contemporary Physics – proposal to change course description
- Brent emailed Kelley Dinkelmeyer stating two things need to happen with the course proposal: (1) LS learning outcomes need to be selected in Curriculog, and (2) the language in the syllabus needs to match Curriculog.
    - Motion was made by Jim Deconinck to preapprove the change of the course description pending the changes in Curriculog and the Syllabus. The motion was seconded by Gayle wells. No further discussion. All was in favor and motion was carried.
6. MUS 103 – Women & Popular Music (Lyn Burkett)
- Lyn is currently teaching this as a 190 (FYS) and as a Learning Community in alternating semesters. Department wants to offer more variety in the music school and feel this course would offer that variety. It will touch on issues such as gender, race, American studies, and popular culture.
  - Question: is this course a FYS now?
    - Yes, it is MUS 190 which is being taught as a FYS for right now. MUS 190 is a “special topic” and this course proposal does not have it's own course number. They would discontinue the MUS 190 course if this is approved.
  - Question: in the description it states it is a historical survey and one of the outcomes shows the history of the US in this context. Have you had a consult with the History Department, is it a history course?
    - No, a consultation has not been done with the History Department.
    - Suggestion: A consult is not a requirement but it is a professional courtesy. The course talks about stuff that is overlapping the History Department. It would be advantageous to consult the History Department so that it can be recorded as part of the proposal.
  - Recommendations: Brent sent Lyn an email indicating items that needed to be addressed: (1) need to reflect the general outcomes of the LS program in the syllabus, and (2) select the LS outcomes in Curriculog.

- Motion was made by Jen Schiff to preapprove the new MUS 103 course pending a consult with history and changes to Curriculog and the Syllabus. The motion was seconded by Ethan Schilling. No further discussion. All was in favor and motion was carried.

7. Erin McNelis had a question for Brent regarding the Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award nominations. Math indicates that if you can be nominated for Math 101 or any class above that. This individual was told that if they didn't teach 101, then they would not be eligible for the award.

- Jim stated that if a person taught LS then you could apply for the award.
- David Onder indicated that Math 101 is tagged in the system as being a LS course; all the other courses are eligible to meet LS, but are not necessarily tagged as a LS course.
- Brent suggested that he will review the Award Guidelines to see what they say. Erin and Brent will discuss further.

Time of meeting adjournment: 4:34pm