

Minutes of the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC)

December 3, 2015

UC - Cardinal

Members Present: Baldwin Sanders, Brent Kinser (Chair), Elizabeth McRae, Erin McNelis, Ethan Schilling, James Deconinck, Jen Schiff, Randa Hodges, Robert Crow, and Sean June

Members Absent: Carol Burton, Damon Sink, David Onder, Heidi Turlington, Leigh Angel, and Paromita Biswas

Recorder: Claire Napoletano

1. Liberal Studies completion for students in the Finish Line Program – *recorder was in route to the meeting and missed the committee's discussion of this topic. Brent kindly gave a quick recap of the proposal from the Advising Center:*

- This is the proposed plan to handle Liberal Studies for our Finish Line program. These students (there are only 4 this semester) have been out for a significant amount of time and we are trying to get them to come back to finish their degree. We met with Larry Hammer and others in the Registrar's office and Alicia Cameron in Advising drafted the proposal:
 - Any student who completed any amount of coursework prior to fall 1987 (when electronic records were established) will be required to meet six of our Liberal Studies categories.
 1. If the student has already completed six categories at the time of their return to WCU, then their Liberal Studies requirements will be waived.
 2. If the Student has completed less than six categories at the time of their return, they will be required to complete (any) six categories in order for their Liberal Studies requirements to be complete. (This will have to be a new "Liberal Studies" option that is written for the degree audit. It will include a long list of courses that fulfill all LS categories, and will look for six to be fulfilled.)
 - Any student whose course work began fall 1987 or later will be required to complete all Liberal Studies or General Education requirements of the catalog year they are put into.
- The committee has discussed Randa Hodges' proposal for coursework completed prior to 1987 that these students are required to complete at least one course from the six (6) categories of the Liberal Studies Program, then they would be able to pursue their degree and have the program waived. The rule already exists for students who have completed an associate's degree from out of state, if they agree to the six (6) categories of Liberal Studies, we will go ahead and waive it. We currently waive it for those students who have received an in-state associate's degree.
- The committee voted to accept this new rule and all were in favor.

2. New History Curriculum:

- Libby McRae provided the committee with materials regarding the History Department's new curriculum in an effort to alert members and address any suggestions and/or questions could be addressed on the forefront.
- The courses in the first category (the deletions) have not been offered in a long time or are courses that the department is proposing to remove from catalog. An impact report determined that these

changes would not impact any other programs. As long as the changes are not impacting any other programs, then it seems a perfectly reasonable request to have these courses deleted from their curriculum.

- If the committee votes to preapprove this proposal, when it comes through Curriculog, Brent will read over to make sure that it is as the committee agreed, then approve it so that it can move forward.
 1. For example: In the old catalog History offered 31 courses with 2 freshman seminars, 24 courses in P3 and 5 in P4 and 15 total ULPs. In this newer there will be 30 courses, 1 freshman seminar, 27 courses in P3, 2 courses in P4, and 9 ULP courses which will be made up by adding multiple sections. The sum total break is the same number of seats in P3 as it is now, and a fewer seats in P4.
 - a. Philosophy & Religion (PAR) are moving out of P3. History gave up an equivalent amount of seats in P4, so we will pick up those seats in P3. So the same number of seats offered by History and PAR currently will be offered by the History with this curriculum change.
- 200 level courses – offering broad survey courses in faculty expertise and courses that were designed to appeal to non-history majors (i.e., Sports in American History as a survey course was originally taught as a 400 and reconfigured as a 200 level course.) 400 level courses have a research component as part of the course, any 400 level courses that are dropped to a 200 level will not require the research aspect.
 - 100 Level Courses will be the courses that articulating
 - 200 Level Courses will be those courses that are survey courses
 1. Survey courses are those classes that include a large span of time (i.e., Western Civilization.)
 - 300-400 level will be the ULPs with primary/secondary research that defines them at that level.
- The rest of the courses include courses that are being renumbered and/or retitled.
- Libby is asking that the LSC preapprove some of these courses (first three categories in Libby's handout), when the deletions come through Curriculog, Brent has committee approval to go ahead and delete them. Then the new curriculum that will be new or changed will come through Curriculog, the committee will have a regular conversation as we normally do with course changes and new courses.
 - Motion was made by Sean June to preapprove Categories 1, 2, and 3 of the History Curriculum Change. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Dulworth. No further discussion. All was in favor and motion was carried.
 1. Brent stated as these items come through Curriculog and if he has questions for Libby he will cc the committee so everyone can participate.
- Review of Syllabi for HIST 281 and HIST 218 – Per Libby, these are syllabi that passed the college curriculum committee but there were some questions and the questions were related to Liberal Studies.
 - HIST 281: *Transformations in European Religious History*
 1. Concern - Syllabus does not include learning outcomes and it should reflect those LO which will be met by the end of this course.

2. Question – regarding the readings (*Aeneid*, *Confessions*, and *Inferno*) - how is this a history course and not a literature course?
 3. Question – the writing aspect – the syllabus should reflect how the LO are going to be met – the kind of activities that will be done throughout the course to achieve those outcomes. Do not get a clear sense of what activities are involved. The idea is that there should be a significant writing component to all LS courses and we cannot tell if the take home written assignment is significant or not.
 4. Concern – regarding the heavy literature focus of the course. Need a better explanation as to how the class is going to be more History than English, what is the distinction?
 5. Concern – not understanding the readings in the context of the title of the class.
 6. Concern – there is a considerable gap between the three readings. An explanation as to how the readings connected to transformation is European Religious History. Maybe be able to use the readings from the actual text that will better bridge it all together.
- HIST 218: *Modern Asia*
 1. Concern – Syllabus does not include learning outcomes, no listing of classification as (i.e., P3 or P4). Cannot get a sense of the course pace or tasks (syllabus calendar/schedule) as far as what is going in this course.
 2. Concern – Syllabus looks as if it was put together really fast and hastily constructed. The topics are very interesting. The readings are interesting and beneficial but more explanation is necessary.
 - a. Put the LS outcomes, needs a classification, these are the outcomes going to be focused on during the course but the way those outcomes are going to be met must be clear in terms of the activities and the way they are being met both in the description of the assignments and the calendar.

3. Update on Liberal Studies Document to Faculty Senate:

- Brent presented the revisions of the LS Document to Faculty Senate. They had questions, there was a conversation, but it was decided to table the LS Document for a vote until January in an effort to give everyone time to read the document.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:43pm