

Minutes of the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC)

April 11, 2014

University Center, Dogwood Room

Members Present: Brent Kinser (chair), Carol Burton, Debby Singleton, Erin Myers, Jim DeConinck, Katy Ginanni, Martin Tanaka, Michelle Scifers, Niall Michelsen, Paromita Biswas, Steve Baxley, Travis Bennett

Members Absent: Elizabeth McRae

Guests: Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Dan Grube

Recorder: Ricky Lanning

1. Approval of minutes from the March 28, 2014 Liberal Studies Committee meeting:
 - The minutes from the March 28, 2014 Liberal Studies Committee meeting were provided to committee members and members were provided the opportunity to review the document. The minutes were subsequently approved.

2. Discussion of the Liberal Studies program with the Provost :
 - Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar joined the committee to discuss the overall liberal studies program. There has been a lot of discussion concerning the assessment of the liberal studies program and the Provost has been asked to visit with the committee so that the group could consult with her as to what needs to be done going forward. The Provost indicated that research indicates some changes to the liberal studies program should be made and she expressed her support to the committee concerning any actionable items that the committee feels like can be accomplished in the present. She says that curriculum belongs to the faculty, so she is not here to provide the committee with her “vision” of the liberal studies program. Her vision is to support the committee’s vision. She asked the committee based on the hard work that has been done, what are some of the items that we can move forward on incrementally? She says that wholesale change of liberal studies programs are difficult and rarely successful. Brent spoke about current challenges surrounding assessment. Debby pointed out that the liberal studies program was created without assessment in mind, so the first time the program was assessed was difficult because there were no standards, and all of the goals and objectives were broad in scope. The Provost noted that being part of the assessment process is not about taking sides concerning academic freedom, and that assessment is an issue of academic responsibility. The Provost says that student learning outcomes for liberal studies courses are good and that we should be mapping those outcomes to an assessment or matrix. The idea of starting with the “core” might be a good place to start assessment. Alison says she’d like to see the committee formulate a

list of five to six items that we can move forward with. She also says that it's important that we have a celebration to recognize a good assessment because those faculty members will become a model. She says the committee should do a recognition of people doing assessment well at least twice a year because this act empowers the committee to hold standards.

3. Discussion of EDCI 305 course proposal:

- Dr. Dan Grube of the School of Teaching and Learning joined the committee to discuss his liberal studies course proposal for EDCI 305. Dr. Grube provided the committee with some general background information concerning his rationale for proposing the course. The committee then had a thorough discussion concerning the proposal and made note of several items of concern and other items that need to be changed. A motion to approve the course with the noted changes was made. The motion to approve was granted and the committee asks that Dr. Grube resubmit. The course will be fully approved once the changes have been made.

Time of Meeting Adjournment: 5:30pm