

Liberal Studies Oversight Committee  
Minutes for February 19, 2001

Present: Hinson, Livingston, Habel, Burke, Smith, Prochaska, Peebles, Philyaw.

Minutes of February 12 were approved as sent by email.

Fred Hinson reported that the Religion 220 (Humanities) course was in a third perspectives category for the Religion discipline (History and World Cultures). He had spoken to Daryl Hale who has agreed to revise the proposal to fit in the World Cultures category instead of Humanities.

Nory Prochaska reported that she and Scott Philyaw have developed an outline for advisor training and a program completion sheet for advisors to use. The first advisor training workshop is scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2001, from 1 till 3 pm in 271 McKee for the professional advising staff and Student Support Services advisors. Committee members from each college agreed to arrange a time for training in their college, and later a few makeup workshops will be scheduled.

Fred Hinson handed out a checksheet prepared by the Nursing advisors that provoked a question about the "42 hour rule". There are four science courses listed as program requirements, two in biology and two in chemistry. If students take the first biology and chemistry courses as program requirements, and use them to fulfill the liberal studies science categories, can they then use the second courses as the liberal studies electives to complete the LS hours? Nory Prochaska also asked, on behalf of the Mathematics department, if a program requirement can be stated as a list of courses rather than specifying a particular course, and then be exempt from the "42 hour rule". In both cases, the consensus of the committee was that the "42 hour rule" preserves liberal studies credit hours. Course hours cannot count for a program requirement and for liberal studies. The liberal studies hours must stand separate from major or program requirement hours.

The book rental policy and its effect on the freshman seminars were discussed. The book rental advisory committee has suggested that the LSOC write a proposal for the kind of exception wanted to the book rental

policy, and submit it to the advisory committee for consideration. John Habel and Will Peebles agreed to write such a proposal, asking for an exception to the policy so that "blanket" freshman seminars can have different texts for different sections (an exception to the current policy) and so that freshman seminar books need not be used for two years (also an exception to current policy). These two exceptions can be considered separately, but both are needed for the freshman seminar concept to be implemented most effectively. Billy Norton, Director of Auxiliary Services, chairs the bookstore advisory committee, and will be informed of the proposal and the LSOC's request to meet with the bookstore committee.

The committee considered further how to handle F and W grades in Freshman Seminars. It was decided that the statement approved at the last meeting, that students cannot repeat freshman seminar, will be sent forward to the Council on Instruction and Curriculum, and that no policy on F and W grades will be suggested at this time. Faculty must realize that the freshman seminar is a special course, and a high degree of interaction with students should minimize any problems with F/W grades, except in cases where they are strongly warranted. Therefore, no exception to F/W policies should be needed.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 5, 2001. This might coincide with a meeting with the bookstore advisory committee, otherwise, it will be a regular committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nory Prochaska