

LIBERAL STUDIES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

March 19, 2001

Members present: Fred Hinson, Will Peebles, Don Livingston, Scott Philylaw, Elizabeth Addison, Dana Edge, Gary Smith, Debra Burke

Members absent: Nory Prochaska

Guests present: Ben Ward, Debra Randleman

Dr. Hinson called the meeting to order.

Ben Ward and Debra Randleman from the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching were invited to the meeting to discuss the professional development of faculty who would be teaching Freshman Seminars. The appropriate type of assistance was discussed. Ideas included hosting a forum with small group break-out sessions, inviting guest speakers from on and off campus with experience in seminar format teaching to share their ideas, hosting help sessions on Socratic questioning, coaching, cooperative and collaborative learning experiences, and offering consultations through the Center on course and seminar design. The Committee was in agreement that the seminar concept was to be broadly construed so long as active learning occurred and the lecture format or survey type course was avoided. Dr. Ward and Ms. Randleman agreed to return the following week.

John Habel moved to approve the minutes of 3-5-01; the motion was seconded by Dana Edge. The minutes were discussed and edited. The committee decided to revise them and vote on approval the following week.

Dr. Hinson made some announcements. Dr. Hinson reported that the Registrar had assured him that the appropriate controls were in place to prevent students from dropping their Freshman Seminar unless they had approval from their advisor.

He clarified which catalog students would determine the student's general education or liberal studies requirements. Students who enter during the 2000-01 academic year, including summer school 2001, will be under the 2000-01 catalogue and its General Education program unless they choose the 2001-02 catalogue and its Liberal Studies Program. Students who enter in Fall 2001 will have to meet the requirements of the Liberal Studies Program.

He asked committee members to assist in workshops for community college counselors, and re-iterated the need to work with those students currently in the pipeline who have relied in good faith on the General Education program requirements.

He also requested that committee members try to attend the Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday at which the replacement grade policy for Freshman Seminar would be discussed. He asked committee members whether or not courses in Liberal Studies should be identified as functional equivalents for grade replacements under the General Education Program, since there were 389 Fs made in General Education courses last fall. The committee agreed that he should pursue that possibility.

Dr. Hinson advised the committee that the foreign placement guidelines will

remain the same for Liberal Studies unless the committee decides to initiate a process to change them as such, if a student placed into a course at the 231-232 level and received a grade of "C" or higher, (s)he would receive credit for the 101-102 courses and possibly satisfy the World Cultures category. The committee determined that the desirability of that result needed to be examined further.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Burke