

Liberal Studies Oversight Committee
Minutes of April 2, 2001 Meeting

Present: Fred Hinson, Don Livingston, Elizabeth Addison, Scott Philyaw, Will Peebles, Debra Burke, John Habel, Nory Prochaska; Ben Ward (guest), Debra Randleman (guest).

Fred Hinson reminded the committee of the dates for the Freshman Seminar workshops: April 6, 3-5 pm; April 20, 12:30-2:30 pm; April 27, 1-3 pm; all are Fridays.

Ben Ward and Debra Randleman reported that an email letter had been sent to all faculty teaching Freshman Seminars and Liberal Studies courses in Learning Communities, inviting them to participate in one or more of the workshops. A list of those responding so far was distributed. The discussion moved on to the content of the workshops. Debra Randleman distributed a spreadsheet of numerous characteristics of the approved Freshman Seminars, taken from the proposals. There are numerous approaches to different aspects of the seminars; these summaries might be useful for initiating discussion about seminar characteristics in the workshops. It was agreed that the nature and role of writing assignments should be discussed, but that, for example, discussion of assessment could wait till further workshops during the fall semester. Scott Philyaw and John Habel will conduct a get-acquainted activity that involves looking at faculty perceptions of the freshman student. It is important that faculty appreciate who the freshman student is, and the implications for how to teach this student. Providing a frame of reference for faculty was suggested; for example, there is "mindset list" circulated by Beloit College each fall characterizing students by their life experiences. It might also be useful to ask Noelle Kehrberg for some demographic and student satisfaction data to characterize our freshman class.

There will be four group work categories: Barbara Hudson and Elizabeth Addison will lead the group on Writing for Learning, Scott Philyaw and John Habel will do Teaching Freshman, Morris Phipps will do Using Student Groups Effectively, and Debra Randleman will do Questioning and Discussion.

Ben Ward and Debra Randleman will attend the LSOC meeting next Monday to debrief about the Freshman Seminar training session this coming Friday.

The minutes of the March 26 meeting were approved as written.

An updated course proposal including a syllabus for REL 220 was discussed briefly. The course proposal was approved.

Fred Hinson reported on several items he had shared with Department Heads at their workshop last Friday: that DHs will identify LS courses that can be used for grade replacement for student who failed GE courses that are no longer being taught (accreditation and registrar problems related to this strategy are under control); the (no) repeat policy for Freshman Seminars; the updated and corrected checksheet, including all courses approved as of last week; the status of Learning Communities; that DHs asked for a

make-up advising workshop; the schedule for the Freshman Seminar workshops; and, again, discussing the issue of what catalog students are governed by (the one in effect when they enter the University).

It was agreed that makeup advising workshops should be offered this spring as faculty finish advising, as well as next fall when they first advise students under the Liberal Studies program.

Bob Orr has offered to post messages about the work of the LSOC weekly on Campus Pipeline. It was agreed that a link to the LSOC Web page is sufficient on a weekly basis, but important new announcements should be "pushed" on the Pipeline.

Fred Hinson reported that there have been a few changes in the Learning Communities, and he will attempt to keep the committee informed of these changes. It is unlikely that the LC schedule will be completely finalized before classes start in the fall.

Fred Hinson reminded the committee that two new course proposals were distributed at today's meeting and that we may wish to talk to faculty involved in the proposals. It was agreed to invite the proposers to next week's meeting to discuss these proposals.

The committee needs to discuss terms of office for LSOC members. It was agreed last year that official terms began last August (committee work before that did not count as official terms). Since the initial committee will have three members with one-year terms, three with two-year terms and three with three year terms, then recruiting new members for next fall should be done this spring. Members should consider if they are interested in terminating their membership at this time. Faculty will be asked if they are interested in serving, and then the AVC-LS will consult with the committee to select new candidates who are advocates of the program.

Respectfully submitted,
Nory Prochaska