

LIBERAL STUDIES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MARCH 4, 2002

Members Present: Millie Abel, Jim Costa, Mark Couture, Dana Edge, Fred Hinson, Kathy Hosig, Don Livingston, Will Peebles, Scott Philyaw

Members Absent: Debra Burke

Guests: Curtis Wood, Debra Randleman, Charles Wallis

Fred Hinson called the meeting to order by introducing Curtis Wood who discussed the DFA as relates to Program and Major Requirements. Curtis pointed out that the 42 hours of Liberal Studies should be protected. The reference in the Liberal Studies Program document approved by the Faculty Senate on September 16, 1999, states "when a Perspectives course meets a student's major or program requirement, the credit hours for that course will not be counted toward the total of 24 hours of Liberal Studies Perspectives required of every student, although the Perspective's category requirement met by the course will be satisfied." Curtis stated that the term program requirement referred to any requirement specified such as minors, concentrations, or disciplinary focus areas. He cautioned the Committee to be very careful before changing or granting exceptions to this part of the Liberal Studies document. He suggested any program requesting an exception to this requirement should assess their own major requirements and study if those could be reduced or changed before requesting to use liberal study hours to count for both the DFA and Liberal Studies. He urged the Committee to be very careful not to compromise this new program by granting exceptions to the program requirements.

Debra Randleman joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming Freshman Seminar Workshops scheduled for March 21st and March 25th. These first two sessions are designed for those instructors who have never taught the course. The purpose is to provide instructors with practical insights and teaching tips. Two other sessions are scheduled for April 4th and 5th for those who have previously taught a Freshman Seminar course and all new instructors are also welcomed to attend. These sessions will allow all instructors to exchange creative ideas and examine resource materials for enhancing their courses.

Fred Hinson introduced Jim Costa, Professor in the Biology Department, to the Committee as the newest member, replacing Gayle Miller.

Charles Wallis joined the meeting to discuss MATH-101 – Mathematical Concepts. He stated that new MATH 101 covered fewer topics and was more in-depth as opposed to the general education course that was more of a survey course. The new course is built on faculty interest and experience. It was taught by part-time faculty. No tenure-

track or permanent faculty are teaching the course. Nory Prochaska and Charles meet with the faculty teaching this course. All faculty must cover statistical literacy and require all students to do a project. Some projects that have been done in the course are: math used in financing in buying a new home, in designing a new kitchen, in financing different types of loans, and research on mathematicians. Normally 5-6 sections are taught each semester with each section having 35 students.

The minutes of February 8th were approved.

The Course Syllabi for Fall 2001 Liberal Studies courses will be available beginning Wednesday, March 6th, at 10:00 a.m. for members of the Committee to pick up and review.

The Governance Task Force will be joining a future meeting of the LSOC to discuss how this Committee may fit into the new proposed governance structure.

The next LSOC meeting will be on Friday, March 22, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. in 510 HFR Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Buchanan