

Minutes

Liberal Studies Oversight Committee Meeting
22 March 2002

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

Members Absent: Debra Burke

Minutes of the 18 Feb. and 4 March meetings were approved.

Members discussed HSCC 191. Admiration was expressed for the hard work, originality and overall quality of this course, which promises to be an exciting part of the Liberal Studies program. There was some concern about the writing in the proposal, and about the multiple-choice format of the exams, but it was agreed that the course has a significant writing component and the committee was assured that the style problems in the proposal would be fixed. The committee unanimously approved the proposal, which will now be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for information.

An extended, relatively intense discussion of the "double-counting" or "double-dipping" issue followed. The issue at hand is whether the College of Education should be allowed to count six hours of Liberal Studies credits towards a 24-hour Disciplinary Focus Area, soon to be known as a Second Academic Concentration. The four programs involved would be Elementary, Middle Grades, Physical Education and Special Education.

Fred Hinson pointed out that this is the second of three requests for double-counting privileges that the LS committee has considered or will be considering, since the Honors College requested permission to double count earlier in the year, and Applied Sciences will be making their appeal at the 1 April meeting.

Don Livingston remarked that Departments already have the power to waive program requirements, or to make substitutions, effectively allowing them to circumvent the prohibition of "double counting." Resolution of this matter at the department level would thereby allow Liberal Studies to maintain its integrity. The major concern expressed by several members of the committee is that Liberal Studies not fall into the rampant double-counting that plagued the General Education program.

Basing its decision on the statement in section IV, page four of the Liberal Studies document, which reads, "All students must complete 42 hours of

Liberal Studies independent of requirements for any degree program . . .,” the committee voted to deny the College of Education's request. The vote tally was seven against, one in favor, with one abstention.

Believing that the issue requires further discussion, Kathy Hosig wished to qualify her negative vote. She stated that she was not comfortable with universal prohibition of double-counting, since it could be seen to penalize students who voluntarily wish to complete a minor or a second major.

Casting aside momentarily the double dipping issue, Fred informed us that Freshman Seminar surveys would be distributed to committee members.

In order to be prepared for discussion, members' evaluation of syllabi should be undertaken before the 1 April meeting.

Kathy Hosig reported on HSCC 101. Her presentation was enthusiastically received by the committee.

The next meeting will be 1 April, 3:00 p.m. in the Rogers Room of the UC.

The meeting was adjourned around 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Couture