

## **Liberal Studies Oversight Committee (LSOC)**

### **Minutes of the September 24, 2002 Meeting**

Members present: Millie Abel, Mark Couture, Marsha Lee Holmes, Kathy Hosig, Don Livingston, Will Peebles (Chair), and Charles Wallis

Members Absent: Jim Costa, Fred Hinson, Richard Starnes

Will Peebles called the meeting to order at 2:00pm in the Rogers Room of the University Center. The minutes of the September 17 meeting were approved as amended. Charles Wallis distributed a copy of the Memo from Gretchen M. Bataille (Senior Vice President of the UNC system) dated March 4, 2001.

Discussion of the memo surrounded how the Liberal Studies program was involved in addressing items #1, 3, and 4 in the memo. Additional items discussed related to the memo were:

1. why so many part-time/adjunct faculty were teaching lower division (liberal studies courses). One suggestion was with program review and emphasis on increasing majors, all tenured/senior faculty were considered instrumental in upper level/major courses which takes them out of teaching first-year/liberal studies courses.
2. rewarding of tenure-track/tenured faculty who do teach first-year students and other liberal studies courses or lack thereof and therefore little incentive to teach first-year/freshmen students.
3. concerns were expressed over the results of a “sophomore survey” and the survey itself. The committee requested a copy of the survey to examine and the results.
4. substantial concern was expressed over the last sentence in the memo, “there may be ways we can assist the campus in working to **improve faculty performance in lower division courses to improve WCU’s retention rate.**” This sentence implies that faculty are NOT performing well and therefore the low retention rate is the “fault” of the faculty.

The move of the Physical and Biological Sciences from the P2 perspectives area to the core and its consequences for the freshman seminar were discussed. The committee discussed leaving the freshman seminar in the perspectives area but keeping the freshman seminar as a separate category unto itself, and not embedded in the different perspectives categories. A discussion also included making the Freshman Seminar an elective rather than required since it cannot be enforced. Students can withdraw from the Freshman Seminar; and students cannot repeat the Freshman Seminar if they receive an “F” in the course. In addition, the possibility of allowing the students to repeat the freshman seminar in the spring if they fail and offering them the opportunity for a “grade replacement” was discussed. Problems with offering the Freshman Seminar as optional included course scheduling in departments and resource allocation, low enrollments, etc. Finally, the consequences of moving the Physical and Biological Sciences to the core on

upper level P2 perspectives courses were addressed briefly with the view that this topic needs further discussion at another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Millie Abel