Liberal Studies Committee Minutes

September 17, 2009

3:30 p.m.

Stabley 101

Present: Y. Asamoah, M. Hildebrandt, K.McKee, D.Pistole, F. Slack, T. Wacker, C. Zoni

FOR ACTION

Course proposals: LBST The global village and PHIL 101 Critical Thinking did not appear to require liberal studies approval. Dr. Sechrist who submitted the courses will be contacted to double check what, if anything was needed.

DISCUSSION

1. Committee makeup – we are still looking for students to serve on the committee. Five students have already been contacted without success. The SGA president has also been contacted and asked to provide possible names. The committee members will check in their departments for possible student members to add to the committee.

2. Goals for the semester - we identified two primary goals for this coming semester:

 1. to develop and finalize a transition plan from the old to new curriculum;

 2. to revise the liberal studies criteria and advance them through the approved

 curriculum process – G. Wilson will be spearheading this effort.

3. Criteria

1. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Criteria Packet Revisions
2. The committee discussed how we might involve the members of the LS revision “subdivision” chairs in our revision of the criteria. The thought was to have the committee make revisions after the deadline and then receive input from these chairs or their representatives.
3. Although it might not be possible due to time constraints we thought it would be important to have the finalized criteria available for a short period (1-2 weeks) to the entire faculty.

1. Discussion of the First Year Seminar Criteria

Our discussions centered on two main issues. The first was that the number of criteria appears to be too large for both the 1 credit and 2-3 credit courses. For example, we felt that there were a number of criteria that spoke to teaching methodologies that could be removed. The second issue is that we felt there needs to be a better coordination of the criteria between the 1 and 2-3 credit courses. For example, a 3 credit course could be taught that did not meet any of the criteria for the 1 credit course. We all felt that what is proposed in the 1 credit course needs to be a part of any first year seminar course. We discussed the idea that we might need to break down this area into three sets of criteria (separate criteria for 1,2, and 3 credit courses).

 The committee then discussed ideas about how to help faculty develop

 courses for this area. One thought was to develop a reflective practice group

 based on the model currently in place for the W courses. We will also talk to

 the creators of DVST 150 and 160 as well as the faculty involved in summer

 orientation for possible ways to help faculty develop these courses.

1. Finally, the committee discussed how we might make the criteria packet more faculty “friendly”. F. Slack has agreed to look into creating a “bare bones” packet and will report his findings at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm