

Liberal Studies Committee Minutes  
January 24, 2008  
3:30 p.m.  
Stabley 101

Present: M. Sadler, Y. Asamoah, E. Auvil, M. Stahl, F. Slack, B.G. Wilson, C. Zoni, D. Pistole, M. Hildebrandt, S. Reid, K. McKee

Excused: T. Wacker

Guest: Dr. Thomas Ault

Asamoah noted the need for an editorial correction to the November 15, 2007 minutes.

Sadler announced that the Feb 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, 3:30-5 is devoted to meeting with assessment consultant, Dr. Barbara Walvoord, and will be held in Sutton 218 from 3:30-5. Light refreshments will be available.

Sadler provided an overview of the Town Hall meeting and summarized the major concerns and ideas that were voiced.

Sadler shared that assessment of LS will continue this semester under the leadership of S. Boser and that the CLA will be administered to a sample of seniors this semester.

On a Hildebrandt/Zoni motion the committee approved the LS math changes to the BS Regional Planning/GIS & Land Use Planning and the B.S. Regional Planning/Environmental Planner Tracks. There was discussion that the rationale offered for the change was not clear and left questions in the minds of the reviewers.

Met with Dr. Ault about the request to allow students who complete THTR 281 Theater East – the Theaters of Asia & the Orient during fall 2008 to count this course as a Non-western offering and a Liberal Studies Elective. On a Wilson/Asamoah motion, the committee approved the request for the fall 2008 semester. In the meantime, Dr. Ault is preparing the course proposal for advancement through the curriculum process.

Reviewed the proposal from Dr. Gwendolyn Torges, LBST 499 You Have Rights! The committee asked for Dr. Torges to be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposal as is consistent with our usual practice. The following comments were offered: 1) the course description and objective G. reflect an emphasis on understanding non-western counterparts and expectations for students to undertake comparative analysis; the committee asks for more explanation on how student exposure to non-western counterparts will occur in the course and what models students use for comparative analyses; 2) where will the opportunities to discuss women and minorities surface in the course; 3) consider the contributions faculty in other departments such as Religious Studies could offer as guest speakers; 4) syllabus should reflect a 14 week semester plus a final exam week; 5) several typos were noted that the proposer will likely wish to fix before the syllabus is distributed to students; 6) states in the assignment section that students will write several short essays (reaction) – suggest that the number be specified for students unless there is a reason for leaving it loose, and 7) suggest substituting the word student for “you” in the stem that precedes the course outcomes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm on a Wilson/ Asamoah motion.

