

Liberal Studies Committee Minutes
September 24, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Stabley 101

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

Approval of minutes of 17 September 2009 meeting with minor revision - Approved: unanimous

FOR ACTION

Course proposals: GEOG/RGPL 103 - Cities of the world. Approved with revisions - unanimous

DISCUSSION

1. Committee makeup – Drs. Asamoah, Pistole and Zoni think that they have students willing to serve on the LSC.

2. Discussed four questions posed to the committee by Dr. Zanich, dean of the college of NSM

1. With regard to the competencies: how will these be reviewed? For example, will Natural Sciences and Math be responsible for reviewing any course which is proposed as a "Scientific Literacy" course?

Committee response - Will follow guidelines – affected departments will be given opportunity to review course. Colleges will not be responsible for reviewing courses.

2. Are all the primary expected student learning outcomes for a given category to be included on a syllabus? Must they appear as they are written or may their substance be communicated in other language? How does this apply to required course content and to common learning objectives?

Committee response – Yes, yes and should be incorporated into the learning objectives

3. Could you give us a general sense of what is included in the idea of "intellectual honesty?"

Committee response – The liberal studies assessment committee has defined intellectual honesty as acknowledgement of sources (academic integrity). Here are the traits and levels as developed by the LSAC committee this past year:

Acknowledgement of Sources (Academic Integrity)

Trait 1 – Documentation and acknowledgement of sources

Trait 2 – Differentiation of original thought and ideas of others

Advanced

Trait 1: Provides complete and accurate citations throughout the work. Clearly acknowledges the influence of sources on the work.

Trait 2: Clearly differentiates between original thought and ideas drawn from other sources.

Proficient

Trait 1: Provides adequate and generally accurate citations throughout the work. Attributes different opinions and evidence to sources.

Trait 2: Adequately differentiates between own ideas and those from cited material.

Developing

Trait 1: Provide some citations, but the practice is inconsistent and the format is sometimes inaccurate. Occasionally attributes different opinions and evidence to sources.

Trait 2: Occasionally differentiates between own ideas and those from other sources.

Undeveloped/Not Observed

Trait 1: Makes limited or no use of citations. Does not attribute opinions and evidence to sources.

Trait 2: Does not differentiate between own ideas and those from other sources.

4. With regard to the Freshman Year Seminar: Is it the case that the one credit courses must include all six kinds of required course content? Similarly, must the two- and three-credit courses include all 11 kinds of required course content?

Committee response – the committee is currently working on these criteria and the general feeling is that a reduction in the number of criteria is appropriate but will need to wait until the Oct 9th deadline for revision information to make a definitive answer. That being said any revision suggestions are welcome.

3. F. Slack gave the committee an update on his work on creating a “bare bones” packet. His work will continue and he will give us another update at the next meeting.

4. First Year Seminar

The committee continued our discussion of the first year seminar. We concentrated on the 2-3 credit option and came to a general consensus of what the course was to include and what it was “about”.

We then discussed the criteria in more detail. G. Wilson will incorporate our comments and send them to the committee. We will continue the discussion of these criteria at next week’s meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm