**Minutes**

##### Liberal Studies Committee

##### November 19, 2015

Present: Y. Asamoah, D. Doverspike, M. Knoch, R. Kostelnick, D. Pistole, F. Slack, R. Sweeny

Excused: M. Correia, S.Ghosh

**I. For Discussion:**

**1. New charge for the Liberal Studies Committee (update from 1987)**

**Current Charge:**

The responsibilities of the Committee will be:

1. To review proposals for Liberal Studies courses, and to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee the inclusion of those which meet the criteria for Liberal Studies; to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee the deletion of courses which no longer meet such criteria.

2. To undertake periodic reviews of each part of the Liberal Studies program, and to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee such changes as may be necessary.

3. To recommend for appropriate action proposals for individual sections of the synthesis courses to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

4. To make any other recommendations, either to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or to other university bodies, which it believes will improve the Liberal Studies program at IUP.

**New Charge:**

The responsibilities of the Committee will be:

1. To review proposals for Liberal Studies courses, and to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee the inclusion of those which meet the criteria for Liberal Studies; to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee the deletion of courses which no longer meet such criteria.

2. To undertake reviews of each part of the Liberal Studies program every five years, and to recommend to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee such changes as may be necessary.

3. Review Liberal Studies course offerings at the end of every year to assure that student needs are being met and make recommendations to the Provost and Deans.

4. To make any other recommendations, either to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or to other university bodies, which it believes will improve the Liberal Studies program at IUP.

**2. Continuing discussion of the role of the LSC in assessment of the LS program**

1. Five-year program reviews – are they available in some form for us to review?

2. Assess by area such as Sociology, Math, etc. by defining how we are going to measure that area or part of an area such as information literacy. We will have to determine how it is operationalized and of course how we would measure it.

3. Is there a test we could give freshmen (beyond the current English and Math ones) that would test parts of the LS program such as numeracy, writing, others?

Would we be able to make our own?

From Learn.org - Several types of college pre-entrance exams are used to measure your knowledge in academic areas like mathematics, writing and science. Some college programs have their own pre-entrance exam requirements. Examples of both basic and program-specific pre-entrance college exams are presented in the following list:

* ACT
* SAT Reasoning Test
* Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
* Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
* Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
* Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
* Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)

4. Each discipline has their own way of assessing how they know what a student can do. Could we work with a few departments every year to establish freshmen and senior level “packets” of research to help us assess the LS program? If it is setup as research it might be able to be kept going within the department more easily.

5. Is there a way to have courses assessed for reaching LS goals in critical thinking, etc.?

6. Is there a way to involve the students and faculty involved in the undergraduate scholar forum to assess the impact of the LS program on their development?

**3. Provost’s request to review Dimension of Wellness (143) offerings.**

There was a concern brought to the committee by the Provost that we are offering too many sections of Dimensions of Wellness (143) courses. The committee stated that we cannot stop faculty members from turning in new 143 proposals. We felt that it might be something that needs to be done at the Dean level where they could meet and decide how many sections should be offered. The LSC recommends that this issue be taken to the council of Deans so that they can discuss the management of 143’s. Dean Asamoah will spearhead this effort.

**II. Writing**

**Type II Departmental Commitment**

Jounralism

15-73a JRNL 120 Journalistic Techniques

15-73b JRNL 220 Writing for Print Media

Motion to Approve both courses – Knoch/Asamoah – Passed: Unanimous

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn: Knoch/Asamoah – Passed: Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.