

**Liberal Studies Oversight Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**2-7-06**

**Members Present: Millie Abel, Charles Wallis, Terry Michelsen, Robert Anderson, Brent Kinser, Tracy Zontek, Jim DeConinck, Peter Nieckarz, Brian Dinkelmeyer, Windy Gordon, Beth Tyson-Lofquist, Kari Hensley and Melissa Wargo**

**1. Approval of the minutes**

Minutes of the January 31 meeting were approved.

**2. Question to the committee from Julie Johnson about a course proposal (Jim DeConinck addressed the committee on her behalf.)**

Jim discussed with committee Julie's class "Principles of Selling" and the LS category in which it would best fit. After discussion, the committee suggested that Julie consider whether the course meets the objectives of the C3 category. If the course is proposed in the C3 area and the CTD department head opposes the proposal during the consultation phase, Julie should request that the reason for the opposition be stated on the consultation form.

**3. Liberal Studies teaching award**

Beth asked that someone from the LSOC volunteer to Chair the LS Teaching Award Committee and Brent Kinser will proudly represent us in this endeavor. Thank you Brent! Beth will notify Anna McFadden.

**4. Discussion of the feedback about potential LS program changes**

Committee members distributed summaries of feedback received from colleagues about the Liberal Studies program, and discussed the feedback.

Three major concerns about the upper-level perspective: course availability, making sure that advisors (within academic departments) are well-informed about the requirement, and having a LS course requirement in students' junior/senior years.

The committee should look at data regarding the offerings of upper-level perspectives courses (number of sections, time of day, etc.) In fact, a review of offerings of ALL LS courses in the last few years should be made; if there are LS courses that haven't been offered in the last 2 years, an inquiry should be made to the appropriate departments to determine if the departments intend to offer the courses, or whether they should be dropped from the list of LS courses.

The committee recalled previous discussion with Fred Hinson about putting in the schedule of courses a list containing ONLY the LS courses being offered during the semester (as opposed to all LS courses); such a list will make advising much easier. Beth will get such a list in the schedule of fall courses if the print deadline has not already passed. (Print deadline for Schedule of classes- February 27 per Kathy Green in the Registrar's Office.)

During discussion it was suggested that we offer advising training especially to newer faculty as they come in.

In discussion of allowing major requirements to count towards LS hours: Those opposed to allowing "double-dipping" either expressed concern about preserving the integrity of the LS program OR concern about the intrusion of major programs into student choice of LS courses. Contrasting viewpoints include the fact that the integrity of the program is determined by carefully reviewing all LS courses and making sure that program objectives are being met. Making sure that programs do not intrude too heavily in LS course offerings can be achieved by monitoring programs themselves (which undergo curriculum approval), as opposed to the current system, which puts the burden on advisors. With the exception of the PAR department, no program can offer courses in more than 2 perspectives areas. The committee will continue to reflect on this discussion until next week.

Brent discussed ENGL portfolio reports (C1) assessment and it was decided that we need to ask for:

- Random samples of self-assessments
- Get rubric to preview (to see what is being looked at and how assessed and determine overall outcomes)

In brief discussion of the science requirement (what are the "non-LS courses" which meet the C5 requirement?), within the 7 "traditional" science disciplines (CHEM, BIOL, AST, ENVH, PHYS, NRM, GEOL), BIOL 132 is the only course without a lab component. Hence all courses in the 7 areas satisfy the requirement, with the exception of BIOL 132.

## **5. Final announcements**

Millie Abel unfortunately resigned from her position as co-chair of the LSOC committee due to health reasons. We want to thank Millie for her hard work and dedication; she has truly been a valuable asset to us and will be greatly missed on the committee. Thank you and good luck!