

**Liberal Studies Oversight Committee
Minutes
2-21-06**

Members Present: Charles Wallis, Brent Kinser, Tracy Zontek, Brian Dinkelmeyer, Windy Gordon, Jim DeConinck, Terry Michelsen, Kari Hensley, Beth Tyson-Lofquist, Peter Nieckarz , Melissa Wargo, and guests Alan Socha, and Brian Gastle

- I. Brian Gastle - discussed SACS standards
Distributed the NC State Compliance Certification for observation and comparison.
He thanked the committee for work done so far regarding assessment, but asked that we not lose focus on learning outcomes and what we plan to do once receiving final outcomes (having a “feedback loop” for program improvement).
The focus should be:
 - 1) Assessment
 - 2) Evidence/Outcome
 - 3) Improvement to LS ProgramHow do we access graduates from WCU? Senior exit surveys?**

- II. (Information only): An IRB form has been submitted for collecting student work for assessment purposes.**

- III. Discussion of Upper Level Perspectives (ULP), based on data provided by Alan Socha**
 - Discussion of enrollment, time availability, and sections with enrollments over the course caps.
 - After review of Alan’s ULP course availability data, the committee agreed that availability of ULPs appears to be an issue that needs further monitoring. The merits of asking for additional courses vs. additional sections of existing courses was discussed.
 - There needs to be a review of ULP courses which have not been offered in the past couple of years, to determine if some of the existing courses should be removed from the ULP list.
 - Discussed learning outcomes of the ULP.
ULP course should satisfy the objectives of the perspectives area, but the instructor should expect a higher level of academic maturity than in a 100-level course. In reviewing future course proposals, the LSOC should continue to review that the course meets the criteria of the perspective area as well as evidence that the course is of higher rigor than an intro course (distinguish between upper- & lower-level perspectives).

- IV. Continued discussion of issues raised by David McCord, based on survey feedback from faculty (in particular, regarding advising issues)**

- **The initial emphasis of the upper-level perspective being outside the major AND outside the discipline has been lost due to unclear wording on the checksheet and elsewhere. After reviewing the wording of the ULP as stated in the LS document, the committee affirmed its support of the statement “The Upper-Level Perspective course cannot be from the student’s discipline, and cannot satisfy major requirements.” The checksheet will be revised to reflect this wording, and Charles will communicate this with David McCord.**
- **The committee agreed that any possible discussion about totally eliminating the ULP requirement would be premature prior to formal assessment of the ULP. However, issues pertaining to the ULP will continue to be reviewed in light of feedback from faculty.**
- **Closing comments concerned granting departments the permission to list ENGL101 & 102 as prerequisites, and minimum credit hour requirements for the ULP. At least one department is concerned about putting the ENGL prerequisite on ULPs, due to the possible impact on transfer students who might not have the core ENGL credit. The committee believes that all upper-classmen SHOULD have ENGL101 and 102 credit, even for those students transferring from community colleges. No formal motion was made (discussion to be continued next week).**