

Liberal Studies Oversight Committee
Minutes, 5 February 2007

Present: Peter Nieckarz (chair); Beth Tyson-Lofquist; Brent Kinser; Brian Dinkelmeyer; James DeConinck; Tracy Zontek; William Poynter; Luther Jones; Winford Gordon; Terry Michelsen

Tracy mentioned that she had made inquiries to the low response to the Math Assessment; there are now 6 responses instead of 2

Minutes for the 1/29/2007 LSOC meeting were discussed. Tracy moved that they be passed after minor typographical corrections; Jim seconded, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

Tracy mentioned that she would be unable to attend the Miami Assessment Conference (March 1-3) and would instead attend the conference in Raleigh (April 13-15). This will free up an additional spot for an attendee. Beth will need to know if someone else wishes to go so she can earmark funds.

Peter volunteered to serve as Chair of the Liberal Studies Teaching Award Committee. Jim will suggest a member of the College of Business to serve on that committee.

Re JPN 305: The LSOC expressed two major concerns. The first was the sustainability of the course, first given the fact there will be a new chair of MFL. In addition, it was decided that the qualifications of the instructor needed to be double-checked to make sure qualified faculty are available for the course immediately (Beth will check AA-21). The issue of sustainability was discussed. The LSOC questions the viability of making a long-term commitment to a course without benefit of long-term faculty (the listed instructor is fixed-term). Another concern was overburdening an instructor already given the task of designing and implementing the Asian Studies Program. If the qualifications for the instructor and the sustainability of the course established, the proposal will need to be rewritten and resubmitted to repair significant grammatical errors.

result: JPN 305 will be tabled until the fundamental issues of faculty qualification and sustainability are resolved.

Re PAR 404: The concern was raised that PAR continues to design new courses without offering them on a regular rotation. They now have 28 course offerings in Liberal Studies. Beth will check Melissa's report of last year that detailed Liberal Studies courses not being offered. The suggestion was made that it might be helpful to construct a policy that requires a regular rotation with automatic removal from Liberal Studies when the course is not offered for a specific number of semesters.

result: Peter will invite head of PAR to next week's meeting to discuss these issues.

Re next week's agenda: The LSOC will discuss new language for C-5; Peter spoke with Kathy Ivey, who was very responsive to the idea of changing the math courses that satisfy C-2 to only those Math courses that reflect the Language of the Liberal Studies Document. In her stead, Joe Klerlein will attend next week's meeting. Brent asked for English to be added to the agenda. English will seek to change its footprint in Liberal Studies and wants feedback from the LSOC in advance of beginning the paper work. Next week, the LSOC will also discuss revisions and additions to the AA-5 forms that will assist faculty as they design and change courses for Liberal Studies.