Minutes
Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2011
3:25 – 4:45pm, Math Conference Room - EN D122

Present: John DaPonte, Joe Fields, Wendy Hardenberg, Nicole Henderson, Elliott Horch, Rich Kustin, Wes O’Brien (recording), Elsie O’kobi Jim Tait, Deb Weiss (chairperson)

Announcements
Tier 2 Technical Fluency and Critical Thinking “pre-steering” committees are being formed.

Deb informed the committee of her discussions with Armen and Winnie confirming that committees would be constituted of one member for each participating department in accordance with the language in the LEP document.

Discussion followed regarding whether or not other interested non-voting faculty members should be encouraged to attend steering committee meetings, particularly in the case of departments with a “heavy investment” in the area. Wes suggested that faculty perception would be more positive overall if those attending the steering committee meetings were kept as consistent as possible, and Nicole suggested that some have felt uncomfortable in the INQ committee meetings when single departments had a particularly strong presence. Joe suggested that limiting attendees to one member per participating department could result in more sustainable representation.

John expressed concern at the lack of Tier 2 Creative Drive offerings and was told that one had just been passed by UWIC and another was in the pipeline. He asked if it would be possible for Kim Laing to update Banner so Creative Drive courses recently passed could be located by interested freshmen. Deb will contact Kim to investigate.

Jim reported that he met with Exercise Science to discuss advisement. EXS indicated that because their students required certification in both Health Education and Exercise Science there was no room in the program for free electives. As things currently stand, if EXS students want to graduate in 4 years they have to take courses outside the regular semester. EXS has requested a more flexible plan to accommodate their students. Jim suggested that they meet with the other certification programs to draft a proposal that would consistently accommodate all programs in similar positions.

Deb pointed out that this discussion is on the agenda (listed as “exemption”) based on a similar request from nursing. John pointed out that the idea of an exemption is consistent with assurances made by LEPC last spring.

Revised Tier 2 Form (with new language from last’s weeks motion on primary expository text)
Tier 2 form passed unanimously and will (hopefully) be presented to UCF tomorrow.
Failing INQ or CT courses and moving on to Tier 2.
The concern is the difficulty students who fail INQ or CT in their 1st semester face finding 5 classes for which to register. Failing INQ presents a greater problem than failing CT because INQ is a pre-requisite for ENG 112.

While there are generally elective classes that at-risk students can take to fill a 15 credit load if they insist on doing so, at-risk students are nonetheless well-advised to take 12 credits.

Tier 2 courses in students’ first semester
Discussion moved to the policy of allowing some students to take T2 courses before they complete their competencies. The concern was raised that if students who fail their competency courses are prohibited from moving on to T2, is there justification for allowing those who have not completed their competencies to do so. It was observed that justification exists—the language in the LEP document indicates clearly that students who do “not successfully complete…may not move on.”

The committee agreed that these are two very different situations, and that the current policy should be continued at least for the time being.

The continuing discussion raised the following issues:
- Should the policy be permanent because of ongoing scheduling issues?
- Should the policy be renewed for one year?
- Should the policy be renewed for the duration of the transition period?
- Should there be a “filter” to allow only those perceived as ready to move on to T2 courses before completing competencies?

John pointed out that the issue is closely tied to the ability of World Language to provide more Spanish sections.

John made the motion that we “approve extending students the opportunity to take one Tier 2 course during their first semester for an additional year and to ask the administration for necessary resources to allow World Language to offer additional SPA I courses.”

Elliot expressed concern regarding making the rules overly complicated, which would, in turn, complicate advisement. He suggested that students unable to complete INQ, CT and ENG 112 by the end of their sophomore year should be blocked from taking any more courses.

Deb asked that John consider dropping the language component of his motion because it may cloud the primary issue. John was willing to do so, but feels the language issue must be made salient enough to be part of the discussion.
Meeting adjourned at 4:45