Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

3:25– 4:45pm – ASC 201

Meeting Minutes


- Meeting was called to order at 3:29 p.m.

- Three previous sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

- Announcements
  - Polly: Donna Jean is hosting a lunch for interested faculty members prior to the Liberal Arts and the Professions presentation on Monday. There will be an email.

- Old Business
  - Commentary from last week for TAP Steering Committee
    - The LEPC commends the TAP Steering Committee and Sub-Committees on the framework and the rigor of the goals and learning outcomes for the competency areas.
    - The LEPC would like the TAP Steering Committee to be cognizant of the fact that unintended consequences may occur as a result of restricting the “package” to only students who complete the degree. What would happen with students who complete part or all of the package, but not the degree?

Motion: To bring forth the above commentary to UWIC for further commentary by the members of that committee. Motion passed with one abstention.

- New Business
  - Meeting schedule - The committee will meet every two weeks instead of weekly. The length of the meetings will be increased in order to compensate for fewer meetings. The next meeting will take place on October 3rd. A schedule will be sent out with the meeting dates for the remainder of the semester.
  - Tier 2 courses in first semester – This issue has been raised 1) because of requests by Departments that want their students to take Tier 2 courses in
the first semester (e.g. Psychology is considering proposing a Tier 2, Intro to Psychology course but would like their students to be able to take this course in the first semester of their freshman year as they do currently with PSY 100 and 2) due to ongoing scheduling issues (not having enough sections of Tier 1 courses to accommodate all freshmen).

Elliott reported on results of an analysis comparing fall 2011 (S1) and spring 2012 (S2) data. Various outcomes and comments by committee members were as follow:

- Grades in both Tier 1 and 2 classes improved from S1 to S2. Non-LEP course grades remained the same between the two semesters.
- The grade improvement in the Tier 1 and 2 courses may reflect the fact that first semester students are adjusting to college life, academically, socially and otherwise.
- There is a lack of clarity regarding what comprises these particular non-LEP courses and this should be explored further.
- Some students are more ready for Tier 2 courses in S1 than others.
- Students who take a Tier 2 course in their prospective majors in S1 as opposed to S2 may be at a disadvantage, given the lower average S1 grades, if there is a GPA requirement to enter the major.
- The data do not present evidence that it would be harmful for students to take one Tier 2 course in S1.
- Allowing students to take a Tier 2 course in S1 would undermine the LEP principle of waiting until a number of Tier 1 courses were completed first in order to ensure that students would be more prepared for their Tier 2 courses.
- The LEP is supposed to ensure flexibility and if we are finding that flexibility is limited, we should make adjustments to the program.
- Per the finding above that non-LEP course grades were the same in S1 and S2, it would be useful to separate the students taking developmental courses and repeat the data analysis.
- If we feel that more data are needed prior to making a decision on this issue, we might wish to allow students to take one course in S1 for an additional period of five years while we gather data.

Motion: For five years starting Fall 2013, students will be allowed to take one Tier 2 course in their first semester as long as they are taking neither ENG 110 nor MAT 095. [still under discussion]

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.