Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

3:25– 4:45pm – Math Department Conference Room, Engleman Hall

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: D. Weiss (Chair), D. Petrosky, M. Shea, E. Horch, P. Beals, S. Graves, and J. Fields

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:27pm.

- Announcements
  - None.
- Committee and Ad Hoc Reports
  - Polly Beals gave a brief report on the LEP Forum, held on October 4th, 8:30am-2:30pm. The event was hosted by Faculty Development. The morning sessions featured a PowerPoint presentation by Michael Ben Avie showing assessment data to date for LEP courses. Michael is apparently willing to share this information; there was some interest on the committee for obtaining the PowerPoint document for further study. The afternoon session was focused on affinity groups; about 30 faculty from across the university were in attendance. Polly reported that an affinity group for Time and Place was formed, and that there is still a need for leadership in forming groups for Social Conflict and Consensus, Mind and Body, and Global Awareness. Some discussion followed. Concern was expressed over the difficulty in finding people to lead and participate regularly in these affinity groups. However, it has also been reported that many standing committee position are unfilled throughout the university. This may be due to proliferation of committees on campus as judged from a recent accounting by Matt Rothbard as reported to Deb Weiss. For LEP, this is a reason we have a need for resources – to give credit to affinity group leaders, for example. The example of supersections was discussed: without good assessment, it is difficult to objectively assess the impact of supersections on student learning.
  - Deb Carroll reported that she and Karen Burke are meeting with the WAC committee on Thurs to discuss the information they have found to support smaller class-sizes for writing-intensive courses. They will also be discussing some assessment strategies for this year.
  - There are no self-nominations for vacant LEPC seats in the current special election. In that event, the bylaws of the committee state that the UCF Steering Committee will appoint members in consultation with the LEPC. This is how Scott Graves is serving now (for Wes O’Brien, who is unable to serve for the rest of the semester). The Committee then developed a list of people to contact to see if they might be interested in serving in the other
open seats, one from the School of Education and the other from the School of Business. Deb Weiss now has that list and will carry forward with contacting those individuals and working with UCF to fill those seats in due course.

*Move to consider an item of New Business out of regular order, without objection.*

- **New Business**
  
  - **Utilization of credits beyond 48 in the LEP to fulfill elective requirements.** Deb Weiss suggested that the Committee consider making a motion to formally state how any credits earned in LEP courses over the 48 credit requirement be handled under LEP. Discussion followed. The committee members considered points of view including (a) that elective credits should be reserved for elective courses, (b) that if a student is only one or two credits over 48 then that would often not reduce the number of courses ultimately taken, (c) that under the AUR, this same issue existed and was handled by crediting the overage to free electives.

  *The following MOTION was then made and seconded:*

  **Any LEP credits a student earns beyond the program’s required 48 credits will follow the precedent set by the AUR program and be credited towards a student’s free electives.**

  *The Motion PASSES by a vote of 6-0 of voting members present.*

  *The committee then returned to Old Business.*

- **Old Business**
  
  - **Continued discussion on LEP course enrollment caps and draft of proposed referendum.** Deb Weiss had distributed a draft resolution on this issue along with the agenda for this meeting. The committee began studying this document and revising it. A number of changes to the text were made following substantial discussion on issues such as national guidelines in various fields, and the scholarly literature that Joe Fields previously provided to the committee that indicates that there is a connection between student retention and class size, student performance and class size, and so on. The result was a nearly complete revised draft of the document, which the committee resolved to complete during the next meeting. Committee members expressed their gratitude to Deb Weiss for drafting the document.

  *Motion to adjourn, seconded, all in favor.*

  *Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by E. Horch, 10/18/2013.