Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, Nov 6, 2014
9:35 – 10:50 – ASC 308

Meeting Minutes

Present: Joe Fields, Yilma Gebremariam, Wendy Hardenberg (recording), Beena Acchpal, Mike Shea, Wes O’Brien (acting chair), Nicole Henderson, Cindy Simoneau, Deb Weiss, Liz Keenan, Dave Petroski

Call to Order: 9:43 a.m.

Announcements

- Astronomy lecture Friday (11/7) Parrish reading on Tuesday (11/11) Berlin Wall 25th Anniversary on Monday (11/10)
- First-Generation Student video screening toward end of semester
- Board of Regents has approved normalization of credits to 120, which has already gone into effect, although not fully implemented until Fall 2017 (no new program over 120 credits will now be approved)

Committee and Ad Hoc reports

- LEP Director update, Wes O’Brien
  - Working towards meeting with affinity groups about assessment for 5-year NEASC report
    1. Met with CT yesterday to get measurable essays by the end of semester to look at with writing and CT rubrics
    2. Marianne has agreed to a stipend and lunch for faculty participating in norming and scoring session
    3. May want to think about assessing CT and writing after Tier 3 rather than first semester (or in addition)
    4. CLA does measure for critical thinking as well
    5. Multi-state collaborative could also help us address interdisciplinary nature of this kind of assessment
    6. Will need two points of data to compare in order to know whether the LEP is having the desired effect
    7. Our starting point should be “why are we assessing?”
      1) To continually improve the quality of our LEP
      2) We should also be looking at the TAP rubrics if we’re going to assess with rubric
• Do we prefer to do an out-of-class assessment next semester or use the CT classes this semester?
  1. We could use students or work from ENG 112 in the Spring, which could get at what they’re retaining from Fall plus a baseline on writing
  2. We could develop an instrument and let the Office of Assessment figure out how to administer it, then we analyze the data
  3. If we offer early registration as an incentive, we will be able to get students

Motion: Assess Critical Thinking and Written Communication jointly early in the spring semester in an essay to be approved by the LEPC. This assessment would be administered by the Office of Assessment and Planning to students completing their second year, with resources provided for faculty to grade the assessment based on agreed-upon rubrics. Data would then be evaluated for areas of improvement by appropriate faculty.

Approved unanimously.

Old Business
  • Summary of main points from Oct 23 meeting with proposed action plans (see Polly’s email message with this attachment)
    • Tabled until next meeting

New Business
  • Limitations on super sections in LEP
    • Motion: Limit super-sections to exclude freshmen and students may take no more than two super-sections for LEP credit, effective Fall 2016.
      1. Will discuss in more detail next meeting
      2. Should get some data to support our position and work with the provost on a mutually agreeable plan
      3. Do we want to limit non-freshmen, though? We should be limiting administrative choices, not students’ choices.
      4. It is normal to have discussion sections with large lectures, and it’s attractive to students to have small sections taught by professors

Adjournment: 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Hardenberg