Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2015

9:35 – 10:50 – ASC 308

Meeting Minutes


- Call to Order: 9:42 a.m.

- Announcements
  - None

- Old Business
  - Discuss motion passed 4/2/15 with Elena Schmitt (Chair) and Resha Cardone (Chair apparent) from WLL

  Motion: Reduce the LEP Multilingual Communication requirement in Tier 1 to 3 credits at the 101 level, and waive the requirement for students entering with Level 4 of high school foreign language. If approved, the motion will be discussed with representatives of the WLL department at the next LEPC meeting prior to moving the proposal to the UCF. Approved 5-2.

  - What questions do we want the WLL department to answer for us?
    - How would this change affect the WLL department’s faculty lines and faculty work load?
    - How does the STAMP test competency level fit in to the proposed 101 level requirement?
    - Couldn’t 200-level WLL classes move to some Tier 2 areas to keep students in intermediate-level language study?
    - What has WLL done in promote WLL study to possibly disinterested constituencies of students, parents, etc?

  - Responses from WLL
    - This resolution has brought dismay to the department
Reduction from excellence to mediocrity
Waiving the requirement for achievement in high school contradicts the idea of proficiency and that college is qualitatively different from high school
Many CT high schools do not teach language for proficiency and teach in English
Neither math nor English accepts high school work in lieu of college classes
Mission of LEP is to look for proficiencies in certain skill areas, and research shows that students reach a point where they can function in a language after three semesters (two semesters is not sufficient for any proficiency that can be retained)
Faculty have put hundreds of hours of work into creating various 200 level courses, but this motion would erase that work and send the 101 level back through the course revision process
75% of students are passing at intermediate low level across languages, and it’s increased from 45%
Anecdotal reports are all that are telling us languages are an enrollment problem
WLL proposes creating a variety of tracks for fulfilling MC that would also help with enrollment
  1) Regular 200 level track
  2) Study abroad track
  3) Cultural understanding track (for students who are very intimidated by the third level)
  4) Languages for the professions track (community has requested some of this)
     • Medical Spanish
     • Business French, German, & Spanish
     • Law enforcement/legal Spanish
     • Spanish/English translation & interpretation
     • Spanish for educators
Languages can be a unique feature that offers us an advantage over our sister institutions (only we have the professional tracks)
Need to work with advising to put students in the right track
WLL requests one year to create tracks 2, 3, and 4
WLL has spoken with Tracy Tyree about holding STAMP tests during orientation, and WLL would pay for the students to take the test
Our students actually come out with a proficiency score they can show to employers (this is also unique)

Responses from LEPC
Administration does not seem willing to do the advertising and selling that is required
Could the wonderful tracks still be offered if the requirement becomes 101? (No, it wouldn’t really be possible, and many students would never even consider doing it without the requirement, even though they benefit so much)

Would like some more information before voting, and will email for it

- Fate of Motion
  - Already voted on, so it’s going to go forward to UCF
  - This revision would not fall under a major revision
  - There will be an opportunity to discuss this further with UCF and all LEPC members are invited
  - UWIC is also discussing this today

- Tabled motion to reduce LEP Tier 2 offerings by 3 credits.
  - Permit students to select 3 out of the 4 non-TAP aligned Tier 2 Areas of Knowledge and Experience (American Experience, Creative Drive, Global Awareness, Mind & Body).
    - Some spoke against the motion as too complicated for students and not being able to speak to the affected departments first
    - Some spoke in favor of the motion as amended because it gives students more flexibility and choice
    - If we’re not sure about this motion, we should quickly vote it down and open the table to other discussions, called the question
    - Vote for calling the question: 6 in favor, 2 opposed
    - Vote on motion: 3 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention
      - Motion defeated

- Should we have another meeting this semester?
  - If so, when?
    - Wes will set up a Doodle poll to determine this

- Adjournment: 10:53 a.m.