Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2016

9:35-10:50 in SCI 319

Minutes

Present: Polly Beals (chair), Siham Doughman, Yilma Gebremariam, Wendy Hardenberg (recording), Liz Keenan, Elliott Horch, Bill Rowe, Karen Burke, Wes O'Brien, Mike Shea, Jim Tait

Call to Order: 9:35 a.m.

Announcements

Old Business: Discussion of resources and conditions required for each category of the LEP

Further discussion focused on whether to make any reduction in LEP credits *conditional*. Agreed to bring the following draft of possible conditions to the UCF for discussion. Approved 5-1.

Conditions for LEP Credit Reduction

As we continue to work to reduce credits in the Liberal Education Program to facilitate students’ timely graduation, to allow students to explore interests beyond their majors, and to improve opportunities for transfer students, we are also dedicated to strengthening the LEP’s offerings and the way instruction is delivered within it. The resources saved through our reductions must be reallocated to this end. Therefore, reductions in LEP credits brought to the administration by the UCF and Senate referendum shall be made contingent upon the following:

The LEP Committee is studying the following and analyzing data.

1. Because LEP was conceived as a small-cap program in which Tier-2 courses reinforce reading/writing skills, critical thinking skills, and a third competency, super sections (sections of more than 40 students without lab or recitation subsections) shall be restricted to students with sophomore standing and higher. Individual departments may appeal to LEPC for exceptions; individual students may appeal to the Director.

2. No more than two super-section classes shall be allowed to fulfill a student’s LEP requirements.

3. To further facilitate reinforcing competencies, and to help prevent SCSU’s unique population from becoming lost in large courses, every super-section shall have one TA, GA or adjunct for each group of 1-40 students over the initial 40.
4. To further facilitate teaching the competencies INQ and Critical Thinking classes shall be returned to—and remain at—a size based upon “sound educational principles” in accordance with the Liberal Education Program Document, which stipulated a class size of 20 or less for Tier 1 courses. Such principles shall be at the heart of, and constitute explicit justification for, any future changes to LEP class size.

5. To improve the teaching of writing, writing intensive courses shall be returned to the originally sanctioned cap of 20 (the increase to 23 was positioned as a temporary measure approximately 6 years ago).

6. Necessary resources shall continue to be made available so that all INQ courses will have a peer mentor assigned.

7. Tech fluency and creative drive classes shall be resourced and capped appropriately to provide necessary tools for meaningful “hands-on” experience.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50