Call to Order: 9:36 a.m.

Old Business: “Conditions and Resources for LEP Credit Reduction” title changed. This reflects our decision not to tie conditions directly to LEP credit reduction, although some members regret that decision.

The new title “Statement Regarding LEP Resource Allocation Needs” reflects the LEP Committee’s principles about resources and pedagogical excellence in liberal education at SCSU.

Motion to approve revised statement passed unanimously, 7-0.

Adjournment: 10:50 a.m.
Statement Regarding LEP Resource Allocation Needs

To facilitate students’ timely graduation, to allow students to explore interests beyond their majors, and to improve opportunities for transfer students, we are dedicated to strengthening the LEP’s offerings and the way instruction is delivered within it:

1. All LEP categories shall have sufficient seats each semester to meet the academic needs and interests of students; course availability and distribution, as well as course caps, shall be based on “sound educational principles” and not solely on cost efficiencies. An equitable number of seats shall be offered in each area each semester.

2. 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 (defined as sections of more than 40 students without lab or recitation subsections) shall comprise no more than a small number of the total seats offered to students in each LEP category. To advance progress in reading, writing and critical thinking, students should be advised to take only one or two super-section classes to fulfill 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 facilitate teaching foundational 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 no more than 20 for Tier-1 courses. Such principles shall be at the heart of, and constitute explicit justification for, any future changes to LEP class size. (The increase of the class cap to 23 was positioned as a temporary measure approximately 5 years ago).

5. To improve the teaching of writing, W-courses shall be returned to the originally sanctioned cap of 20 (as in the case of INQ and CT classes, the increase to 23 was positioned as a temporary measure approximately 5 years ago).1

6. Technological Fluency and Creative Drive classes shall be resourced and capped appropriately to provide necessary tools and conditions for students to have meaningful “hands-on” experience.

7. Necessary resources shall continue to be made available to deliver all parts of general education at SCSU in accordance with the LEP Document.

8. To insure the integrity and variety of offerings of the LEP, course offerings and class sizes should not be used as an instrument for the pursuit of cost efficiencies to the detriment of pedagogical excellence and student interests.

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1 At the Faculty Senate meeting of April 6, 2016, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved a Senate Resolution to restore class caps for INQ, Critical Thinking, and W classes, from 23 to 20 students in order to support students’ needs and to achieve proposed outcomes in the area of academic writing. This Resolution pertains to points 4 and 5 listed above.