

Liberal Studies Committee Minutes

November 17, 2022, Meeting – 3:45-5:00 pm – Stabley 103

Attendance: Heuer, Hovan, Ortiz, Siegel Finer, Slack, Smith-Sherwood, Stenger

Excused: Knoch, Scheib

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 pm.

I. Approval of agenda and order – Approved on a Ortiz / Hovan motion.

II. Approval of minutes from the October 20, 2022, meeting - Approved on a Heuer / Stenger motion.

III. Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) update – Bryna

Siegel Finer reminded members of the proposed deadline (end of AY 22-23) for remaining programs to design writing plans. She has been consulting with programs about once per week. Siegel Finer confirmed for Hovan that KCNSM pre-professional programs do not require their own writing plans as they are covered under the plans of the units contributing to those programs. Members discussed a complication created after restructuring (i.e., some departments have several programs within their units). Siegel Finer confirmed that, once all programs have writing plans, courses designated Writing Intensive (WI) will no longer be necessary. Siegel Finer designed a D2L course for faculty charged with developing writing plans and will add any interested faculty to it upon request.

IV. Liberal Studies updates – Dawn

A. Leaving Stabley 103 by semester's end – Smith-Sherwood informed of new location for LS office (Sutton 208). Space is needed in the IUP Libraries. The old model of the shared admin (LS, CTE, WGS) no longer exists. No longer a reason to stay together in that space.

B. Shared governance meeting – Smith-Sherwood reported of the upcoming (11/30/22) meeting between the Provost, the LS Director, IUP APSCUF President, and University Senate Chair to discuss the process for the prospective LS revision.

C. Spring 2023 events – Smith-Sherwood asked members to participate in upcoming LS-related events: 1) 3/2/23, Roosevelt Montás (author of *Rescuing Socrates*), 2) 4/13/23, Paul Hanstedt (author of *General Education Essentials* and *Creating Wicked Students*)

D. Discussion of Coordination Council #4 'white paper' – With Knoch's permission, Smith-Sherwood shared Knoch's feedback with the group:

1. I think that the emphasis on DEI is something that the LSC should continue to focus on and perhaps find a way to assess. Perhaps we could develop a stronger connection with the CTE to help faculty to increase DEI content. This will likely ruffle some feathers but I think this needs to be a priority and a few departments have been historically granted a carte blanche regarding DEI content.
2. I really like the idea of creating 'tracks' in the electives category, especially if these tracks help with the simplification of the EUSLO's.

3. The current health and well-being requirement has always been an issue. Perhaps we could sit down with the respective departments (KHSS, NURS, FDNT, etc) to discuss how to overhaul this area to make it more meaningful to students. This may be especially important for student populations that historically have health-related issues. One of the cooler things (in my very humble opinion) that I have seen is HBCUs tackling health issues with their students by creating a health portfolio and providing students with coursework to address diet, exercise, mental health, etc. I could envision a multi-disciplinary set of courses to do something similar at IUP.

Members discussed these and other ideas concerning the prospective LS revision.

V. Course proposals – None

IV. Adjournment - Approved on an Ortiz / Heuer motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next meeting (tentative): Thursday, December 15, 2022, 3:45-5:00 pm, Stabley 103 [CANCELLED]