Liberal Arts Core Review Steering Committee (LAC-RSC)
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2009

Present: Dise, Heistad, Hill, Rudy, Smith, van Wormer

Absent: Chatham-Carpenter, Davidson, Kirmani, Morgan, Patton

Hill announced that the CHFA Alumni Symposium is coming up in April and author Peter Stearns, has been invited to give a lecture on Thursday, April 15. Hill distributed a flyer for the committee’s information. She said that even those who are not CHFA faculty members may have an interest in reading Stearn’s book, *Educating Global Citizens in Colleges and Universities: Challenges and Opportunities*. She suggested that the Committee read at least the first four chapters of the book. Anyone interested in faculty reading groups related to Stearn’s book can contact Betty DeBerg. Hill added that she has requested to be on the schedule for a meeting with Stearns.

After a brief discussion regarding committee meetings for the spring semester, it was decided to meet either Mondays or Wednesdays at Noon or 3:30. It was noted that brown bags would be held at Noon and Focus Groups in the afternoons.

Arthur informed the Committee that Kristin Moser has reviewed the student and faculty surveys. Arthur will be meeting with Moser next week in order for Moser to offer suggestions for demographics and data, as well as discuss IRB forms. Arthur indicated that the surveys should be ready after Thanksgiving break. Hill mentioned that a feature of Survey Monkey is to send an automatic reminder if someone hasn’t responded to a survey. Also, after a brief discussion the Committee decided to add the QEP questions back into the faculty survey.

Arthur said that she had mentioned the Committee’s idea for a possible speaker, etc. to the Provost and the Provost asked for details of the events and wanted to get a sense of a budget amount.

Several ideas for themes for brown bags and presentations were mentioned including:

- President Allen’s association with a colleague in Pella, IA as a possible source for a speaker.

- Research other schools and hold a panel presentation of the various models

- Best practices in writing, science, literacy, critical thinking and humanities

- Review AAC&U’s list of speakers
- Town hall at the end of the semester

It was noted that it would be beneficial to invite Student Services staff to the various events since they know students well. It was mentioned the Patton may have some ideas on who might be included. Heistad said that Karen Agee in the Academic Learning Center would be an excellent resource.

Hill shared with the Committee a response she received related to the charge document that was posted on UNIOnline. The response talked about co-curricular programs for outside the classroom. Smith added that the CBA goes beyond what is done in the classroom related to skills curriculum and sustainability. Hill said that she would be willing to be on a panel dealing with theme related courses.

There was discussion related to the questions, “What do we know about what students know?” and “How much do we know about what students know when they walk in the door?” It was noted that it is good to have data on what students know to determine what they need to be taught. Developing intellectual skills, as well as having a knowledge base was mentioned.

The Committee talked briefly about the budget noting that it would be modest. Heistad commented that funds would be better spent by bringing people together here on campus.

Dise raised a question regarding the timeframe of the review process. It was noted that there are two processes taking place simultaneously; the Liberal Arts Core Committee is working on LAC contingency plans for the short-term while the LAC-RSC is working on more long-term projects. It was also mentioned that the LAC-RSC charge document gives a timeframe of two years.

Arthur mentioned having an all faculty workshop before the fall semester to address LAC issues.

The Committee had a discussion regarding the various reading materials that have been shared and what items in the readings would help steer the review process.

There was some discussion regarding goals and a foundation for this process. Smith said that it is important to find what the existing LAC doesn’t do enough of and focus on that. The Committee noted campus wide it would be agreed that knowledge, skills and values are all important for students.

It was decided to post information about brown bag lunches relevant to the LAC on UNIOnline. Heistad indicated that she would be willing to be the contact person to collect names and ideas of those interested. The UNIOnline posting would run after the Thanksgiving break.
It was decided that there will not be a meeting on 11/20/09.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 in the SIAC Conference room.