University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

University Liberal Education Committee
Friday, February 22, 2013
Council Oak Room 260, Davies Center


Presiding: M. Goulet

Convened: 12:05 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the meeting on February 15, 2013
   ▪ Motion to approve, seconded, approved as distributed

2. Discussion regarding 300-level courses
   ▪ M. Goulet reviewed all 300-level courses in the Catalogue designated as GE
     ◆ Many sound like interesting courses
     ◆ Handful have a prerequisite
     ◆ Will need to create new courses/experiences but concern about eliminating good quality courses already in place
     ◆ Serve dual roles – major and general education
       . i.e. Soc 314 (Social Class & Inequality), prereq of Soc 101, one-third to one-half of enrolled students are majors/minors the rest take it for general education
       . If a course is no longer offered for ge/LE core it could stop being offered to majors/minors as well due to enrollment numbers needed to offer courses
     ◆ Upper level courses should be allowed as an option, not a requirement
       . Programs should be trusted to determine at what level the course should be taught
     ◆ Three learning experiences for Integration excessive – allowing 300-level course in le core would widen the courses that could fill the requirement
     ◆ Working definition of “foundational”? How can a course be foundational if it has a prerequisite? Why have lower/upper levels?
       . “Foundational” has the connotation meaning 100-level
     ◆ LE core = course that constitute the general education requirement (outside of program/degree)
     ◆ Integration is not foundational and “not part of the core”
     ◆ Core/foundation = common, uniqueness gained in program
       . Core courses complement program
       . Defined by outcomes
     ◆ Thoughts on eliminating “core” and “foundational” and becoming LE “program”
     ◆ 300-level courses applying to be part of the core must have a sound rational for any prerequisites
     ◆ At AAC&U’s 2011 HIPS Conference, B. Knight and a group presented the draft at the time, consultants stated 300-level courses were need to provide synthesis to 100-level
     ◆ Provost has discussed the possibility of system requiring all schools to have a common core
       . Governor Walker’s budget proposal includes education policies

Adjourned at: 12:50 PM
Submitted by: S. Forcier
Approved: 3.8.13