Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the meeting on March 8, 2013

- Motion to approve, seconded, approved as distributed

2. Announcements

- On the morning of March 29th, author/instructor, Rebecca Nowacek, will be on campus for a workshop.
  - An email notice was sent from Undergraduate Studies yesterday
  - Workshop will explore what we can do to foster students to become “agents of integration”
  - A continental breakfast will be provided, followed by a plenary session, small group work and follow-up discussion
  - Attendees are also able to join Ms. Nowacek for a Dutch lunch in the Heritage Room.
  - The workshop is limited to 45 people (Reservations should be sent to forciesm@uwec.edu)
  - Each participant will receive a copy of Nowacek's book, Agents of Integration, upon request

- During last week's ULEC Meeting, it was requested that a to-do list be established
  - Not ready to provide that at this point
  - During the next meeting, M. Cassidy will provide a demo of the eform that has been created by Arts & Sciences for their course approval process
  - Following the demo, a member of ULEC from each college (J. Prushiek?, C. Brandt?, W. Miller?, M. Goulet?), can meet with Margaret. The hope is to embed the requests of colleagues, drafts from previous ULEC meetings, etc. to create a new document for ULEC’s use in reviewing courses which apply to be part of the LE Core
    - ULEC will approve and distribute to colleges by mid/late-April
  - Approving courses will be the next step
3. Continue discussion regarding 300-level courses

- In the interest of time, M. Goulet distributed a draft motion with preamble:
  - Courses in the Liberal Education Core are intended to be broadly accessible to students from all programs of study at the university. As such, it is expected that prerequisites will be minimal. That said, we do realize that in some cases prerequisite skills such as mathematics, writing and foreign language competencies will be critical for success in some Liberal Education Core courses. All courses applying to be part of the Liberal Education Core will need to provide a rationale for the presence of any prerequisites.

Motion: Upper division courses are eligible to apply to be part of the Liberal Education Core

- Prefer one prerequisite but allow for the committee to entertain exceptions
  - If it is an exception, has to have a reason to be considered, why does it need the prerequisite, why couldn’t it have one prerequisite or none, valid rationale needs to be provided

- If it’s sent to faculty with this wording, it sets up an expectation -- if the number of prerequisites is left open, will lose focus of program

- Should constantly be reiterating that courses applying to be part of the LE Core must meet one or more of the outcomes along with emphasizing the course needs to be broadly accessible.

- Course applications must state a clear rationale, things could change in future

- Flexibility is important, not a requirement for students, options are available as to which courses can be taken through LE Core

- Seems to be that members are arguing about what we should vote on 1) should upper division courses be able to apply or 2) do we need to fully subscribe circumstances prior to vote
  - Preamble is important, vote on this motion and then vote on specific language later

- Remember to focus on what the LE Core is, what are the characteristics, its focus, don’t want to lose that

- No way courses can escape "breadth" due to the way the core is currently set up (skeleton), breadth built in

- Students graduating need to graduate with certain skills, learning outcomes should be at forefront of all thinking

- We don’t want to build in a long process for each course, we can reject applications too. If too cumbersome, doesn’t seem to fit in LE Core, entertain others’ rationale, make our own recommendations, suggestions around pre-reqs

- Two different philosophies: 1) LE program that is very clearly laid out a simple thing, these courses apply to these outcomes and 2) a lot of different ways to achieves those outcomes – where the outcomes are met in a rich way, we’ll approve them
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- Look at the university’s mission – the student will become... the students' vision is front and center. Rationale will come to us and we can determine whether to include the course; it doesn’t have to be told to the university, it's too narrow to only say one prerequisite allowed
- We will evaluate courses, however, ULEC will change. This is why it's important to keep the outcomes and the desire the courses be "broadly accessible", provide firm guidelines for those who are new to ULEC
- Future generations of ULEC can make changes, we shouldn’t worry about it because we can't control it
- We do have a responsibility
- Motion: Upper division courses are eligible to apply to be part of the Liberal Education Core.
  - Seconded, motion passed with three opposed (M. Johnson, A. Keys, W. Miller)

Adjourned at: 12:47 PM
Submitted by: S. Forcier
Approved: 3.29.13