Liberal Education Principles
REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

For a number of years the University Liberal Education Committee (formerly the University General Education Committee) and other workgroups have been engaged in examining the General Education program and participating in analyzing and implementing curricular programs that may improve the current program. These groups have produced reports and recommendations such as the UWEC Strategic Plan, Strategic Planning Workgroup 2 Report, BluGold Commitment Statement, GE Workgroup Report (2009), and the Chancellor’s Report to UW Board of Regents on GE Reform. As a step toward the development of a proposal to revise the General Education Program, ULEC developed six principles of UWEC Liberal Education that will guide the development of the revision (document received from ULEC is attached).

Points Discussed by Committee:

The Academic Policies Committee discussed the proposed principles, making two changes in the wording. First, in the fall of 2010, when the function of ULEC was discussed in the University Senate, there was concern about the meaning of “graduation requirements.” Graduation requirements include the General Education program, Diversity, the competencies, and other curricular components as well as GPAs, residency requirements, etc. GPAs etc. are not in the purview of ULEC. To clarify which graduation requirements are meant in ULEC’s proposal, we added “curricular” in the second, third, sixth, and seventh bullets. In addition, to emphasize the variety of approaches that may be included among L. E. methods of delivery, we deleted the parenthetical phrase listing examples. We agreed upon the text as shown below.

UWEC LIBERAL EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

● The content and structure of liberal education serves to guide students in attainment of knowledge about humanity and the natural world, and skills to make connections among academic fields, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, engage issues of individual and social responsibility, and respect diversity.

● The sole purpose of university curricular graduation and L.E. requirements is to guide student learning and intellectual development.

● University curricular graduation requirements and L. E. should be flexible enough to encourage students’ taking responsibility for becoming intentional learners, with enough structure to encourage breadth and depth of exploration.

● L.E. methods of delivery should be relevant, effective, and include a variety of approaches. Among these are immersion and integrated learning experiences.
Liberal Education Principles

- Revision efforts should be structured so as to maintain UWECs ‘marks of excellence’ for students, including opportunities for study abroad, service-learning, and faculty-mentored collaborative research and scholarship.

- University curricular graduation requirements and L.E. should incorporate course work and experiential learning that prepares students for life in the increasingly globalized, multicultural, racially diverse, technological societies.

- University curricular graduation and L.E. requirements should be intentionally designed to integrate as smoothly as possible with requirements for all majors, and to minimize conflict with those majors that carry numerous requirements driven by external accreditation.

Pros of Recommendation:

The proposed principles emphasize the accepted goals and outcomes of liberal education. Upon approval of these principles by the University Senate, ULEC will be enabled to develop the proposal for a revised Liberal Education program (currently GE) and present it for consideration in the near future.

Cons of Recommendation:

None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

NA

Committee Recommendation:

That the proposed principles be approved.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of _8_ for to _0_ against on _February 15, 2011_ (Date)

Recommends that

The University Senate approve the proposed principles of UWEC Liberal Education as shown below:

UWEC LIBERAL EDUCATION PRINCIPLES

- The content and structure of liberal education serves to guide students in attainment of knowledge about humanity and the natural world, and skills to make connections among academic fields, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, engage issues of individual and social responsibility, and respect diversity.
**Liberal Education Principles**

- The sole purpose of university curricular graduation and L.E. requirements is to guide student learning and intellectual development.

- University curricular graduation requirements and L.E. should be flexible enough to encourage students’ taking responsibility for becoming intentional learners, with enough structure to encourage breadth and depth of exploration.

- L.E. methods of delivery should be relevant, effective, and include a variety of approaches. Among these are immersion and integrated learning experiences.

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Implementation Date: upon approval

Signed: Barbara Lozar
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office