

College of Liberal Arts Council Minutes
25 February 2021
9:00 a.m. via Zoom
APPROVED

Present: O. Armeanu, K. Arwood, C. Baker, J. Beeby, S. Christensen Blair, A. Buck, W. Durham, S. Gupta, J. Hardgrave, L. A. Howard, S. Hughes, R. Lutton, D. Lynn, A. McKibban, M. Nguyen, K. Oeth, O. Popescu-Sandu, M. Roberts, S. Rode, R. Rowland, T. Schroer, E. Wasserman

I. Approval of Minutes: 28 January 2021

E. Wasserman motioned to approve the previous minutes, S. Christensen Blair seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

II. Curriculum Items (M. Roberts)

L. A. Howard discussed the following proposals:

- JRN 281 (Basic Reporting) - Course Modification - Adding ENG 201 as a pre-requisite to ensure students have a basic foundation.
- Radio and Television Minor – Program Modification – Updating to make minor program more aligned with previous changes done to major program.
- Digital Video Minor – Program Modification – COMM and ART changes to reduce hours required for minor (from 24 to 18 credit hours.)
- CMST 201 (Introduction to Communication Studies) – Course Modification – Changing description to broaden relevance of course to students outside of the major.

E. Wasserman motioned to approve the proposed changes described by L. A. Howard. W. Durham seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

S. Gupta discussed the following proposals:

- Global Studies Major and Minor – Program Modification – Added SOCW 392 (Global Social Work) and SOC 490 (Social Work in Jamaica) to make the program truly interdisciplinary and well-rounded.

E. Wasserman motioned to approve the proposed changes described by S. Gupta. L. A. Howard seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

J. Hardgrave discussed the following proposal:

- History Major Elective Areas – Program Modification – To fix the history areas in DegreeWorks. This is essentially a cleanup. The courses are divided into three main areas – U.S. History, European History, and World History.

History Major Elective Area	Course
Area 1: U.S. History	HIST 222 - Roots of Communalism
Area 1: U.S. History	HIST 315 - American Environmental History
Area 4: Professional Development	HIST 330 - Topics in Public History
Area 1: U.S. History	HIST 336 - African American History to 1865
Area 1: U.S. History	HIST 337 - African American History Since 1863
Area 1: U.S. History	HIST 456 - Race, Power, and Violence
Area 2: European History	HIST 464 - The Social History of Murder
Area 2: European History	HIST 465 - The Social History of Ghosts
Area 3: World History	HIST 470 - Pilgrimage in History
Area 3: World History	HIST 478 - Steppe Empires

O. Popescu-Sandu motioned to approve J. Hardgrave’s proposal. S. Christensen Blair seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

O. Armeanu discussed the following proposals:

- Philosophy Major and Minor – Program Modification – Adding new courses to the program which have been created in the past few years. The new courses being added are PHIL 251 (Introduction to the Study of Religions), PHIL 299 (Special Topics in Philosophy), PHIL 335 (Cognitive Science of Religion), PHIL 376 (Philosophies and Religions of Asia) and PHIL 499 (Independent Study in Philosophy). Additionally, some courses will now be electives due to being offered less frequently.

E. Wasserman motioned to approve O. Armeanu’s proposal. T. Schroer seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

E. Wasserman discussed the following proposals:

- THTR Lab Practicums – Course Modification – THTR 120, 320, and 420 are the three lab levels. Course descriptions for all three are being modified to clarify differences between the levels and to be more accurate in describing actual practices.

T. Schroer motioned to approve E. Wasserman’s proposals. S. Christensen Blair seconded, and all members unanimously approved.

S. Rode informed the CLA Council of FREN 290X, GERM 290X, and SPAN 290X. All three are experimental course levels, as designated by the “x”. The goal is to enhance the cultural understanding and language proficiency at the intermediate and advanced low levels. E. Wasserman noted that because they are experimental courses, they bypass the normal procedures

to move forward as they are only offered once. Once accepted, these courses can be submitted as permanent proposals.

O. Popescu-Sandu informed the CLA Council of the change to the Master of Arts in English program. The MAE program is moving online. This proposal was approved by the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Council yesterday.

Associate Dean Roberts informed the CLA Council of the changes to the Online Advanced Studies in Addiction Science (OASAS) certificate. The credit hours have been reduced from 24 to 12.

III. Instructor Review Process Vote (J. Beeby)

O. Popescu-Sandu discussed three suggestions from her department instructors. First, including a word limit for the answer form so that people are not pressured to write many pages. Second, there is a phrasing mistake in the last item of the form. Third, to include that the process should learn towards a formative component as well rather than just an evaluation component.

O. Popescu-Sandu suggested a word limit (no more than 300 words), include that the process will have both evaluative and formative functions, and to fix the phrasing mistake in the last point of the form under step five.

E. Wasserman motioned to approve the above suggestions. W. Durham seconded the motion, and all members unanimously approved.

L. A. Howard reported that instructors might be fearful that this review process would be a step towards eliminating jobs. Part of the fear factor stems from a line in the document that notes the importance of teaching, but the language took away their contributions to service or scholarships they engage in. E. Wasserman noted that, by excluding those areas, the intent was to take pressure off the instructor.

They also asked for clarification on if long time instructors were exempt from this, when the review process would be implemented, and if the instructor who is on the review committee would be from their own department, or an external department.

Dean Beeby answered that this process will be implemented in Fall 2022. M. Roberts stated that the committee purposely chose to keep the clarification of instructor makeup vague because some departments only have one instructor.

C. Baker discussed feedback from her department instructors and asked for clarification on the definition of an instructor. Dean Beeby answered that the document is for faculty members who have been here on a multiple year contract as an instructor. They would be evaluated by the second year with the assumption they are heading into their third year.

Dean Beeby will meet with instructors tomorrow and will answer additional questions they ask. He also assured that this was not done in any way to eliminate positions. Rather, the idea

was to give people more security. He also stressed that if someone believes the review committee is unfair, they can always contact him directly.

The CLA Council unanimously approved the Instructor Review Process as amended.

IV. Advising Updates (R. Rowland)

R. Rowland pulled numbers comparing Spring 2020 to Spring 2021, specifically week 1 versus week 4. However, some majors had extremely high numbers. She suspects this is due to students who have changed their major but have yet to have their first major removed. R. Rowland will send out numbers after checking to ensure the removal of first majors for accurate data.

R. Rowland reminded the CLA Council to sign any graduate applications they receive as soon as possible as the Registrar's Office plan to have all Spring and Summer '21 graduate applications in by March 5th.

Registration for Fall '21 courses will start on Monday, March 29th. Seniors will register first; Juniors on March 30th; Sophomores on March 31st; and Freshmen on April 1st. April 2nd is Good Friday so the university will be closed.

V. Announcements and Updates (J. Beeby)

Dean Beeby announced that the university has made the decision to have commencement in person. Faculty are not required to attend. There will be two ceremonies to accommodate for physical distancing.

Contact Assistant Dean Hughes for any bookstore issues.

The university will look at a new policy on how to proceed with cancelling or moving classes online as we have not had a policy before. Comments and suggestions may be e-mailed to Dean Beeby.

Dean Beeby is working on third year reviews and will meet with the faculty on Monday. Chair FARS are due electronically to K. Oeth by noon on April 5th.

Dean Beeby met with assistant professors as a group. The meeting was filled with many great suggestions and input. Many are struggling with COVID and expectations on faculty with research and completing their research under difficult circumstances. They expressed appreciation towards the support of their Chairs. The Dean will meet with instructors tomorrow, and then associate professors next.

The Mandela Social Justice event went very well. The student panel was especially fantastic.

Tomorrow is K. Arwood's last day. R. Lutton will take over many of K. Arwood's responsibilities in the short term while the request for a replacement is going through. The CLA Council thanked K. Arwood for her work. Contact R. Lutton if you need assistance with events, Zoom, and social media. M. Nguyen will take over Umbraco web page changes.

VI. Open Items for Chairs

W. Durham updated the CLA Council on the Lily Grant that was awarded to create the Center for Adult Learners Success. The center is starting out with seven positions. Some positions will focus on intake and some will be coaches to make sure the adult learners successfully complete the program. There will be a director as well as a marketing position.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.