

LAC Minutes – Final

Friday, 01/20/2017, CA CH 301, 1:00 to 3:00

Attendance:

Voting Members		Voting Members, cont.		Non-Voting Members	
Chris Brooks, Chair	X	Laura Sanders		Kendra Cawley	
Elizabeth Cole		Julianne Sandlin		Sally Earll	X
Marc Goodman		Jenny Sasser		Anne Haberkern	
Allison Gross		Torie Scott		Susan Wilson, Recorder	X
Dana Harker		Thomas Songer			
Wayne Hooke, Vice-Chair	X	Nora Stevens	X	Today's Guest	
Jessica Johnson		Ann Su	X	Eriks Puris	X
Hannah Love	X	Catherine Thomas			
Linda Paulson		Ralf Youtz	X		
Davina Ramirez					

Note: Minutes are sent to all of the individuals listed above, plus the VP of Academic Affairs, the Director of Institutional Effectiveness, and all past LAC chairs.

ACTION ITEMS

- None

BUSINESS UPDATES

Announcements

- Chair Chris Brooks announced that Nora Stevens has agreed to be the next LAC chair. Based on established protocols, she will rotate into the vice-chair position next year to ensure a smooth transition. Here is what the LAC leadership will look like through June 2020:
 - 2016-2017 – Chris Brooks, Chair; Wayne Hooke, outgoing Vice-Chair
 - 2017-2018 – Chris Brooks, Chair; Nora Stevens, incoming Vice-Chair
 - 2018-2019 – Nora Stevens, Chair; Chris Brooks, outgoing Vice-Chair
 - 2019-2020 – Nora Stevens, Chair; TBA, incoming Vice-Chair
- Recruitment of new LAC members; specifically, from the full-time faculty contingent, continues. Jenny Sasser (Gerontology), a guest at the December meeting, officially joined the committee early this month.

Minutes from December

Approving the minutes from the December 2 meeting was postponed for lack of quorum. The fear of traffic complications arising from post-inauguration activities was thought to be a contributing factor to today's light attendance. Scheduling conflicts and personal issues that arose also played a role.

Subcommittee Updates

- Templates. Nothing new to report.
- Outreach. No report; group members unable to attend.
- By-laws. Chris said his committee had made some progress in updating the LAC by-laws and should be ready to present a draft to the Council in the next month or so. The existing by-laws, while only five years old, reflected the speculative nature of the then-evolving council and needed new language that more accurately reflects current practices.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summative Assessment Model (SAM)

Chris had an opportunity to share the ideas and concerns expressed at the last meeting with the EAC/LAC Integration Team (ELAIT) when it met December 12. ELAIT decided it was time to get faculty into their respective Gen Ed groups (Arts & Letters, Social Science, Math/Science/Computer Studies) and talk about what they teach and what they would like to assess. Kendra Cawley, Dean of Academic Affairs, is working on an email that will go out to all SAC chairs inviting them to send one to three SAC representatives to the session earmarked for their SAC's Gen Ed group. [Note: The email was sent at 2:26 Friday, while the LAC meeting was in session.] At this time, there is no established timeline for reaching a decision on Gen Ed as it pertains to outcomes assessment. The level of participation at each of the three sessions will largely dictate next steps.

The group brainstormed ideas for the email announcement...

- Send the invitation to the contact persons listed on the ARFs (assessment report forms) to reach the faculty most entrenched in assessment at the discipline level

And ideas for the February sessions...

- Adopt a 'dot' activity similar to the one Biology faculty used at their SAC meeting in spring 2015 when exploring elements of the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education's (PULSE) Vision and Change initiative. In our case, use green dots to signify outcomes most closely aligned to the curriculum, yellow dots for outcomes only partially aligned, and red dots for outcomes not at all aligned.
- If using the dots activity, set up a Google document version that allows the conversation to continue online. Preface it with a comment to the effect that our accrediting agency requires us to teach to prescribed outcomes and to evaluate student achievement of same. Currently, there is no method for ensuring that all students are meeting all outcomes; hence, the need for these important discussions.
- Have posters or handouts that delineate:
 - The philosophy statements that already exist for each Gen Ed category
 - The current six core outcomes
 - The AAOT/ASOT-B outcomes from JTAC
 - Specs for course outcomes as found in the CCOGs
 - Valencia College's "Think/Learn/Value/Do" principles

As a newer LAC member, Ann advocated for a one-page visual aid that has all of the outcomes in one place. Who is responsible for each? How do they all tie in? [Note: After the meeting, guest Eriks Puris created and distributed a detailed poster that provides a "visual representation of the various curricular pieces involved in Gen Ed reform..." His document will be posted as a January 20 supplement at the LAC *Agendas and Meeting Minutes* page.]

The group tossed around ideas as to which of the current core outcomes might surface as 'keepers' in the February sessions. There are a couple on the current list that tend to be favorites across the disciplines, and a couple others that SACs have embraced on an exploratory level. Someone brought up the topic of social and personal responsibility—soft skills that employers strongly value. Are those assessable? Do they fall under the umbrella of Professional Competence?

What if the February sessions bring no resolution? Chris is worried about the perpetual “spinning of wheels.” Must the hammer drop, he asked, before we can truly make progress? In response, Wayne said that has been our M.O. in the past—wait until we’re under pressure from NWCCU before we act.

\$300K Pot of Funds

Chris said he sent an email to SAC chairs last week encouraging them to take advantage of the funds still available through the Strategic Planning initiative. The money would go a long way in supporting part-time faculty members’ efforts in assessment projects on behalf of their respective SACs.

Ralf noted that the process of accessing the funds is opaque, that the deadlines are impractical, and that other colleges he is familiar with have a single, straightforward form for all committee work, professional development funds, and assessment tasks outside of normal contract duties. Chris added that he has not heard back regarding an assessment-related workshop he proposed last term, nor has he heard back from the DOI overseeing the funds regarding the best way to fill out the form on behalf of PT faculty doing assessment work. Eriks noted that this could be brought up when the EAC leaders meet with members of the administration, and Chris added that perhaps the union should get involved as well.

Informal Gatherings

As Eriks was getting ready to leave, he invited the members to join him ‘across the street’ at 4:00, saying there are too few opportunities for faculty to get together informally. Chris agreed, and said he will see to it that the LAC has a fun get-together at the end of the school year.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.