

MINUTES
University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education (UCCLE)
January 24, 2007
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. – 201H Burruss Hall

Members Present: Quinton Nottingham, Jeff Connor, Ron Daniel, Clare Dannenberg, Donna Dunay, Joe Eska, David Ford, Ginney Fowler, Leon Geyer, Elisabeth Klughardt, Marlene Preston, Phil Radtke, Donna Cassell Ratcliffe, Bonnie Rosen, Esti Sheinberg

Guests Present: Bob Jones, Carolyn Meier, Susanna Rinehart, Ray Van Dyke, Bonnie Alberts

Members Absent: Monique Dufour, Neil Hauenstein, and Cindy Wood

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in the President’s Conference Room, 210H Burruss Hall, by Committee Chair Quinton Nottingham.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

- a) Ray Van Dyke asked that item 6(a) be included on the Agenda for an Assessment Subcommittee Report.
- b) Chair Quinton Nottingham stated that item 6(b) of the Agenda be changed to “Ex-Officio status of the positions of Assistant Provost for Liberal Education and University Studies, and Director of Academic Assessment.” Susanna Rinehart and Ray Van Dyke are currently in these positions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 24, 2007, Agenda. The motion carried.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2006

4. REPORT FROM PROPOSAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE –

Recommendation for Second Reading of the following Proposal:

- **PPWS 2004 – Mysterious Mushrooms, Malicious Molds, Area 7, effective spring 2007**

Dr. David G. Schmale, Assistant Professor of Mycotoxicology and Fungal Plant Pathology, Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science, was present and spoke to UCCLE committee members regarding this Proposal, which was approved for First Reading at the December 7, 2006, UCCLE meeting.

After Dr. Schmale’s presentation, Marlene Preston, Convener of the Proposal Review Subcommittee, asked Dr. Schmale for additional information concerning the target audience and general goals of the course. Dr. Schmale explained that this course is being offered for the first time to non-science majors, with three (3) lectures per week, including an ‘open lab’ which is available to students throughout the day.

After a short discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve **PPWS 2004 – Mysterious Mushrooms, Malicious Molds, Area 7**, effective spring 2007. The motion carried.

5. REPORT FROM PLANNING AND DIRECTION SUBCOMMITTEE – Susanna Rinehart

Susanna Rinehart stated that the Planning and Direction Subcommittee has meetings scheduled throughout the spring semester. She discussed the progress of the pilot program, *Student-Defined Liberal Education Option at VT*, and explained that the invitation letter is near completion and will be sent to perspective students and their advisors. A meeting of all participating students will then occur.

Ms. Rinehart expressed her appreciation to Bob Jones for his leadership with this pilot program, in addition to the Management Team which includes the following members: Ginney Fowler, Carolyn Meier, Sheryl Ball, Bud

Brown, Jack Dudley, Mary Ann Lewis, and Susanna Rinehart.

Ms. Rinehart announced the appointment of two (2) Graduate Assistants for spring semester, Ms. Alesya Bogaevskaya, and Mr. Paul Spencer, who are familiarizing themselves with the liberal education curriculum. In addition, they will be instrumental in organizing a university-wide ‘task force’ whose purpose will be to revisit liberal education at VT.

Other issues being addressed by the P&D Subcommittee include:

1. A better vehicle for training of advisors
2. Surveying advisors as well as advisees
3. Requesting that Department Heads nominate a “liberal education liaison” for their department
4. Use of ePortfolio to integrate the liberal education experience and to assist students’ understanding, self-reflection, and checkpoints throughout their liberal education experience
5. How to expand the circle of knowledgeable people assisting students

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Report from Assessment Subcommittee** – Ray Van Dyke, Director of Academic Assessment, reported that this Subcommittee has not formally met; however, Mr. Van Dyke reported that he is researching an electronic management system for outcomes assessment in preparation of the SACS review. This system would document assessment of all departments on campus, as well as the curriculum for liberal education. When that system is in place later this spring, the Assessment Subcommittee will meet to discuss how to proceed with the assessment of the curriculum for liberal education.
- b. **UCCLE Membership Status of the Position of Assistant Provost for Liberal Education and University Studies, and Director of Academic Assessment** – Chair Nottingham asked the committee for their recommendation on the membership status for these two (2) positions on the UCCLE committee, which are currently filled by Susanna Rinehart and Ray Van Dyke, respectively. A motion was made, seconded and carried to change these two (2) positions to “Ex-Officio” status with full voting rights on the UCCLE.

After the motion carried, there was question and discussion as to whether the UCCLE has the power to make this change. Chair Nottingham volunteered to draft a Resolution and will also determine the proper channels for the change. The UCCLE will then officially approve the recommended change.

- c. **ViEWS Purpose Statement** – After a short discussion, it was decided that a subcommittee be formed to draft a ‘purpose statement’ for ViEWS Plans. The following members volunteered for this subcommittee:
 - i. Phil Radtke
 - ii. Marlene Preston
 - iii. Susanna Rinehart
 - iv. Elisabeth Klughardt
 - v. Quinton Nottingham
 - vi. Ron Daniel

The nine (9) items of concern stated in the December 7, 2006, minutes, will be addressed at the subcommittee’s meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:
Bonnie Alberts
Recording Secretary for UCCLE