

Liberal Education Committee Annual Report 2018-2019

Composition

Domain Representatives for the 2018-2019 academic year were:

American Experience: Jasmine Mitchell (American Studies - U)

Basic Communication: Anahi Douglas (English - U)

Creativity & Arts: Patricia Harris (Visual Arts - U), Chair

Diversity: Sarah Smith (Public Health - U)

Foreign Languages: Fernando Guerrero (Modern Languages - T)

Humanities: Kyle Anderson (History & Philosophy - U)

Math: David Ralston (Math - U)

Major Cultures: Edislav Manetovic (PEL - U)

Natural Science: Bright Emenike (Chemistry and Physics - U)

Social Sciences: Dana Prewitt (Sociology - U)

Western Tradition: Laura Limonic (Sociology - U)

While the new faculty bylaws only include the domain representatives as voting members of the faculty, other regular LEC meeting participants included Yumi Nicholson, the Administrative Coordinator of General Education, and Rachel Littenberg, the Registrar's Office Transfer Articulation Manager. Shalei Simms, Academic Affairs, attended in Fall 2018. Jacob Heller, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Assessment, and Hedva Lewittes, Director of Academic Assessment, attended several meetings.

The LEC met eight times over the course of the 2018-2019, four times each semester. Meeting dates were 9/14/18, 10/12/18, 11/9/18, 12/14/18, 2/8/19, 3/1/19, 4/12/19, and 5/10/19. Patty Harris served as chair.

The faculty elections were not completed in time for next year's LEC to convene to elect a chair for the upcoming academic year. As the current chair's term on the LEC is expiring, Edislav Manetovic has offered to convene next year's first meeting to elect a chair. The committee expressed concerns that untenured faculty consistently make up the bulk of this important committee, placing substantial pressure on junior faculty to take on politically sensitive and labor-intensive service, particularly when serving as chair. This reflects a structural and cultural overreliance on the most vulnerable full-time faculty to effect campus governance at Old Westbury. The LEC is aware that the Senate has been exploring this issue and encourages those efforts.

Curriculum

The LEC approved the following courses for inclusion within the Liberal Education Curriculum, or for a second domain within the curriculum. With the exception of Diversity courses (a local requirement), these courses were then sent to SUNY for system approval as General Education courses:

- PE1650: Politics of Comics (Creativity & the Arts and Diversity)
- SY2222: The Work of Caring (Social Science and Diversity)*
- HI3005: Environments in World History II (Major Cultures and Humanities)

- VA3456: Creative Coding: Art and Games (Creativity & the Arts)
- HI3003: Environments in World History I: Antiquities to the Middle (Western Tradition and Humanities)
- PE3xxx: Public Finance & Public Policy (Social Sciences and Diversity)*
- CP2900 and CP2901: Astronomy Lecture and Lab (Natural Sciences)
- CP2800: Nutrition and Health (Natural Sciences)

*Note: SY2222: The Work of Caring (Social Science and Diversity) and PE3xxx: Public Finance & Public Policy (Social Sciences and Diversity) are in the queue for the SIRIS system. Once they are registered there, they can be submitted to SUNY.

Domain representatives also worked with the LEC chair and R. Littenberg in the Registrar's office throughout the year to give students domain credit for qualifying transfer courses.

SUNY now requires that ASL be considered for the Foreign Language domain for all students, so the Modern Languages department will work with the LEC in the fall to bring ASL into the LE curriculum. Once this happens, LEC guidelines need to be revised to state that ASL can satisfy all majors to reflect the SUNY requirement. LEC voted to remove a paragraph in the current guidelines that states otherwise.

Liberal Education Curriculum Development Stipends

Funding for Liberal Education Curriculum Development Stipends has been temporarily suspended. In Fall 2018, 2 courses developed under this stipend received dual-designated status.

- SY2222: *The Work of Caring* from Jillian Crocker (Sociology) for the Social Science and Diversity domains.
- PE1650: *The Politics of Comics* from Carolyn Cocca (PEL) for the Creativity and the Arts and Diversity domains.

Assessment

The LEC assesses the LE curriculum through the ongoing process of domain review on a five-year cycle. In addition, domain representatives work with the Director of Academic Assessment to conduct student-learning assessment.

In domain review, the domain representative collects syllabi for all sections of all courses offered in the domain in a given semester, and analyzes the syllabi to get a sense of the course offerings in the domain (see appendix). This year, domain review was conducted in the Basic Communication, Natural Science, and American Experience domain (by A. Douglas, B. Emenike, and J. Mitchell, respectively). The LEC discussed and approved all three domain review reports during our April and May meetings.

The LEC also discussed draft reports of Student Learning Outcome [SLO] assessment in the Creativity & the Arts, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences domains conducted in Spring 2018. Diversity, Major Cultures, Basic Communication, and Information Management were conducted in Spring 2019. These will be discussed in the coming fall semester. The domain representatives worked with the Director of Academic Assessment to facilitate the assessment process.

Coordination

The LEC consistently weighs in on campus initiatives related to the curriculum, and domain representatives serve as liaisons between the committee and the departments in their domains, helping to ensure broad faculty knowledge about the LE curriculum. This is particularly important given the recent changes in the LE curriculum precipitated by SUNY's Seamless Transfer initiative. Y. Nicholson and R. Littenberg consistently advise on how adopted courses impact larger areas of the curriculum.

LEC and LEAP

In Spring 2016 a Resolution was passed in Faculty Senate calling for the adoption of LEAP Learning Outcomes. In the Fall of 2018, an initiative was begun to map the current Old Westbury curriculum onto the LEAP student learning outcomes. Jacob Heller presented a Resolution to the Senate in December 2018 to form a committee to begin aligning LEAP student learning outcomes to the Old Westbury curriculum. This Resolution passed. A committee was formed that included Jacob Heller, Hedva Lewittes, Frank Sanacory, Patty Harris, Ashlee Lien, Andy Mattson and Ryoko Yamamoto. Patty Harris served as Chair. The committee was called the Learning Outcomes Joint Task Force aka the LEAP Implementation Mapping Committee.

The first step of mapping OW curriculum consisted of having Liberal Education Committee domain representatives review the LEAP rubrics and fill out a map of learning outcomes created by Jacob Heller. This was an initial broad sweep of alignment to review where consistency existed and/or gaps. (appendix)

The LEAP Implementation Mapping Committee met on 2/26, 4/10, and 4/24 in spring 2019. The process of alignment of learning outcomes has begun and will now be further developed.

SUNY White Paper and SUNY Green Paper re status of general education across SUNY

A SUNY White Paper on the state of general education across SUNY was received in late October 2018. This paper was presented by Laurette Morris and discussed at Faculty Senate in late October 2018. It was also discussed at the LEC meeting in November 2018. The White Paper compared general education programs across SUNY. This paper suggested a full range of areas of study in fulfilling general education requirements. In this respect, Old Westbury's program was in alignment with the SUNY suggestions. This paper also recommended using the AAC&U's LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) student learning outcomes. OW had passed a Resolution through Faculty Senate in April 2016 to do so. A response to this White Paper was written by Hedva Lewittes, Jacob Heller, and Patty Harris. This White Paper was presented at Faculty Senate and sent to SUNY on 11/16/2018. (appendix)

A SUNY Green Paper was received in March of 2019. The Green Paper supported LEAP student learning outcomes but also made a recommendation to limit the number of domains applied to general education. The LEC discussed this paper as did the LEAP Implementation Mapping Committee. There were several points raised in response to this paper. A response was written by Jacob Heller and Hedva Lewittes, with contributions from members of the LEAP mapping committee. It was sent to SUNY on 5/1/2019. This response and the points raised were discussed with the LEC at the April meeting. (appendix)

Approved September 13,2019

The Liberal Education program at Old Westbury is in good shape in relation to SUNY recommendations. The alignment with LEAP will continue to develop in a manner suitable to the mission of Old Westbury.

Math Advising Guide

Finally, the Math domain review and SLO assessment of Spring 2017 indicated that many students were being advised into MA1020 who likely would have been better served by one of the other proficiency courses, such as MA2050 Quantitative Reasoning. In response, D. Ralston solicited information on Math requirements in a range of majors and drafted an advising flow chart to help advisors suggest the math proficiency course for which students will be best suited. D. Ralston presented a final version of this chart at the LEC and it was approved. It is now available for distribution to departments.

Circulated September 2019 and approved.