12 APRIL 2010

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Tom Bergeron, LACC Committee Chair

RE: LACC Committee Update

The committee has approved the following recommended guidelines for approval of new LACC courses:

In order to be considered for LACC credit, courses at WOU must

* carry lower-division designation,
* address one or more of the WOU Genral Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)
* be designed as either
  + a general survey course, or
  + a focused introductory-level course that brings the student into the methods, practices, and ways of knowing of the field.

These proposed guidelines are being sent forward to the Faculty Senate for your consideration.

In addition, the committee has analyzed the data collected in the learning outcomes survey. The committee reached the conclusion that, based on the data, it appears that the five learning objectives are being addressed in LACC courses. That is to say, those who participated in the survey reported course objectives that, in the aggregate, align reasonably well with the WOU Learning Outcomes.

After reading and discussing the sample papers that were submitted, the committee concluded that the current writing component of the LACC is not in need of a drastic overhaul. However, several recommendations are in order. A set of such recommendations has not yet reached final draft, but the elements that are being considered include:

* Raise the expectations in WR 135.
* Encourage writing gateway courses in the majors.
* Explore Writing-Center-supported models.
* Embedding team-taught Writing Center/Library Research units into writing-intensive classes.
* Offer workshops to writing-intensive professors to help them model and design assignments so that they may better elicit from students the kind of writing they wish to see.
* Build a collection of annotated writing samples in the library and/or writing lab.