

College of Arts & Sciences
Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Present:

Voting members: Professors Naomi Cameron, Jay Odenbaugh and Harry Schleef

Ex-officio: Tuajuanda Jordan - Dean of the College, Gary Reiness - Associate Dean of the College and George Battistel - Associate Vice President of Finance

Guests: Robert Nayer - Director of Operating and Capital Budgets, student representative - Justin Midyet and Visiting Assistant Professor of History - Reiko Hillyer

Absent: Voting members Matthew Johnston and Ellen Seljan

Recorder: Anne Boal - Mathematical Sciences

The minutes from the November 7th meeting were approved as written.

Professor Reiko Hillyer presented her proposal to give college credit at little or no cost, to the prison inmate students in a special course, an Inside-Out Prison Exchange course. This course has been taught once through Lewis & Clark, by Professor Hillyer, however the incarcerated students did not pay for nor receive college credit for the course. The question is the costs and benefits of the course to the prison inmates, the Lewis & Clark students, and to the college as a whole.

The Inside-Out Prison college course is a national program offered by about 200 colleges, by 125 trained professors offering 150 courses. The course through Lewis & Clark was offered last year as History 398: Crime and Punishment in US History, taught at the Columbia River Correctional Facility with 15 LC students and 15 inmates. Sixty LC students competed for the 15 spots in the class by writing an application essay and interviewing with Professor Hillyer. The course was very successful for everyone, and the History Department agreed that she should obtain the approval of the curriculum committee to offer the course in future years. The inside students were screened for the class by their educational preparedness and behavioral issues. The LC students received 4 college credits and of course, paid tuition for the course, whereas the inside students did not pay any tuition, nor did they receive college credit. All the students in the course wrote weekly papers, read texts and handouts, and wrote a research paper.

The course was an immense success and provided life-changing experiences both for the LC students and inside students. The Curriculum Committee has recommended that inmates receive credit for completing a course taught by an LC faculty member as part of the Inside-Out Program, but was not prepared to determine the budgetary implications of granting free or low-cost credit to non-matriculated, incarcerated students.

Professor Hillyer researched how other colleges that participate in the Inside-Out Program handle the tuition charge and give college credit. Other private colleges tend to offer the courses for credit at no cost to the inmates, though some colleges charge a nominal fee. She could not find a private college that charged the inmates tuition, though some did not give them college credit. Public universities tend to charge a lower fee than normal, but may have a hard time offering credit for the courses.

To minimize the costs for the course at LC last year, the History Department covered the cost of the used textbooks, the students used their own cars to carpool to the facility, and she used her own funds for copying expenses. Examples of reduced tuition at LC are the Templeton Scholars Program for high school students, who pay \$300 per course and continuing education courses in the Graduate School of Education & Counseling. The inmates usually have minimal financial resources, with fewer ways to earn money, so it seemed like another model needed to be determined. The Curriculum Committee suggested bringing this issue before other bodies, such as this committee, for discussion. Professor Hillyer still needs to meet with the Registrar, Judy Finch, to discuss the costs of registration, recording of grades, and maintaining records. The number of courses offered per year can be controlled, to keep these costs to the college at a minimum.

There is a \$1,500 cost to train each faculty member who wishes to teach these courses. She and Professor Becko Copenhaver are the only Lewis & Clark faculty members who have been trained. So far, Professor Hillyer's training expenses were paid for by student donations; Professor Copenhaver's were paid by the Dean's office.

Professor Schleef commented that there is not a clear way to price this experience. However, since the inside students are vital to the success of the course, and they are not as likely to enroll if they are not receiving credit, he suggests paying these students to complete the course. Dean Jordan did not think that this would be feasible.

This committee seemed agreeable to offering the course to inside students at no or nominal costs, but was not entirely sure how to determine the correct price.

There was not time at this meeting to discuss the college's budget for 2013-14, so the committee hopes to meet again before the end of finals.