Liberal Arts Work Committee

Minutes for 10/25/2010

Attendance: Fred Loxsom, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Nicole Krassas, Lisa Fraustino, Anna Sweeney, Shelley Gimenez, Rhona Free, Kathleen Fabian, Olugbenga Ayeni

The meeting began at 12:00 noon in Room 269 of the Science Center.

Minutes of last meeting were unanimously approved.

The consultant, Lee Cuba, met with Psychology faculty who will share a report on their plans for participating in LAW. Cuba will continue working with Nancy Salter on focus groups for Service Learning.

Within the next two to four weeks, the committee will receive feedback from departments that are piloting the LAW procedures and forms for research courses and for internships.

Nancy suggested that input from a legal consultant is needed in order to develop policy related to service learning and internships. Nicole suggested examining the policy of institutions with established service-learning as a model for formulating Eastern’s policy. The committee agreed that seeking advice from career service associations would be a good option and Nancy promised to investigate this option. Rhona will distribute information about the LAW budget to see if funds would be available to hire legal consultants. The committee agreed that it would be appropriate to use some of the LAW budget to pay fees of legal consultants.

Nicole raised the issue that academic units need to be kept informed as we proceed with our service learning policy development to ensure wide acceptance and overall success of implementation.
Nicole argued that the committee needs to develop and adopt rules and procedures, such as the definition of a quorum. Nicole offered to look into the procedures of other committees so we can adapt some of their policies to guide ours. The committee supported this step.

Editorial changes were suggested for the form and instructions for the non-credit bearing LAW option. Rhona offered to further revise these forms so that they are more user-friendly. The committee plans to pilot the non-credit bearing LAW option forms and procedures during Spring 2011. The incentives for student participation in the pilot study would be a support letter (possibly from President Nunez).

Service-learning focus groups will be meeting soon to gain information about faculty use of service-learning. The information from these groups will help the committee form a plan for including service learning in LAW.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.