**Liberal Learning Program Council**

**Minutes from October 16, 2013**

Present: Robert Anderson, Rich Blumberg, Connie Hall, Rita King, John Laughton, Tara Porfido, Monisha Pulimood, Nina Ringer, Nelson Rodriguez, Lynn Tang, John Sisko, Nicole Ferrito, David McGee, Ann Peel

Absent: Kristen Speigel, Marla Jaksch, Chung Chak

1. The minutes from September 4, 2013 were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimous by the 8 attendees of 12 that were present at the September 4th meeting (8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining).
2. Evaluation and discussion of interdisciplinary course: *America's Unofficial Ambassadors Summer Service Internship;* proposed by JoAnn Gross.

* IDS courses are approved by the Liberal Learning Council as they do not reside in any specific program/department.
* Students will receive TCNJ credit for participation in an internship abroad. The course instructors are listed as a Dr. Tahir Shad from Washington College and the Director of the “America’s Unofficial Ambassadors” program, Benjamin Orbach.
* The Council did not feel it had purview to review the course. It was more appropriate for TCNJ students to request transfer credit in a manner similar to study abroad programs as the instructors of record were not TCNJ faculty.
* The Council Chair will convey this to Dr. Gross and ask her to provide additional information regarding the course and how it is conducted.

1. Monisha Pulimood presented the key findings of the Liberal Learning Assessment Project completed in summer 2013. A one -page executive summary was also provided which summarizes the findings and recommendations. The Faculty Assessment Fellows assessed samples of student writing samples from FSP courses and senior capstone courses across the College. They employed a rubric from the Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) program. The criteria included critical thinking, written communication, information literacy and quantitative reasoning. In general, students improved in all areas delineated by the rubric from the first semester (FSP course) to the senior year (capstone courses). The Council discussed the results and two points were emphasized:
   * The rubric used, as well as most rubrics employed for assessment, do not assess creativity
   * A general discussion regarding the influence accreditation bodies have on curriculum or academic freedom when assessment is mandated.

The report will be made available on the Liberal Learning website.

1. Adjournment was at 2:45 PM.