

COPLAC Institute on Liberal Learning in the Disciplines
9-12 June 2005

In their meeting at Asheville in June, 2005, English faculty members representing 15 COPLAC institutions deliberated on issues facing their departments and agreed on the following statement.

We encourage administrators to continue to exert every effort, including lobbying legislatures, to ensure and maintain the distinctiveness of the public liberal arts mission. English faculty members wish to have COPLAC presidents and chief academic officers endorse and advance the following Best Practices as essential in carrying out our liberal arts mission.

1. Uphold the integrity of the liberal arts mission of COPLAC institutions in admissions and transfer practices, funding and allocation of resources, and faculty reward systems.
2. Emphasize and distinguish formative and summative evaluation, ideally incorporating formative evaluation into a cooperative mentoring program.
3. Value and reward adjunct instructors as integral to the academic mission of the institution by improving the conditions and status of their work.
4. While technology cannot replace face to face to face teaching, IT instructional technology can enhance teaching and learning both inside and outside the classroom. Provide adequate resources—including choice of platforms and technologies, training and IT support.
- * 5. Affirm the importance of a capstone experience for all students.
6. Encourage assessment to employ multiple measures, follow-up, and support from institutional research with data and analysis.
7. Support undergraduate research opportunities, including opportunities to present and publish the results.
8. Affirm that a class size of no more than eighteen is optimal for general education writing classes.
9. Foster interdisciplinary and collaborative teaching and course development.
10. Provide leadership, as well as resources and support (including faculty development), for diversifying the curriculum in multiple dimensions.

The participating faculty acknowledge with gratitude the support of their institutions in making this collaboration possible and encourage COPLAC to continue the summer institutes.