

Program Initiative to Improve Performance - Unit Planning

Expansion of Weaving (Fiber Art) Course Offerings

Priority: TBA

Currently the LCC catalog lists coursework in Weaving and in Non Woven Fibers. In actuality, each term only weaving courses are offered, 3 sections of weaving taught as one course. This proposal calls for an expansion of course offerings in this program to 2 courses per term, one weaving class and one separate non woven fibers class. I propose that there be a .5 part time contracted instructor, that this instructor teach 5 of the 6 courses in Fall, Winter, and Spring, and that the 6th class be taught by another part time instructor.

Other universities and colleges in the state, and nationally, provide these class offerings, reflecting the expansion of contemporary fiber arts applications. These include dyeing, printing, fiber sculpture, and multiple surface design techniques. The LCC art department has not kept pace. There is great interest among the students, who initiate requests to learn these things every term. Weaving classes are filled easily. Often I must turn away students from an overfull class.

Many of my students are in transfer programs. I have followed students through university, undergraduate and graduate schools. Non woven fibers coursework is transferable. There are 200 level classes at the UO. We do remain a less expensive alternative at LCC. Also, the fibers area serves many students committed to lifelong learning, enrolling repeatedly for personal enrichment. Students learn multicultural traditions, history, and techniques, providing an expanded worldview of their artform.

I have requested this change for several years, having recognized the demand for these courses. Implementation is feasible. My position is at .319 now. It makes economic sense to increase the position to .5, and increase the workload from 3 to 6 course per academic year. The weaving classrooms can be used for both weaving and non woven fibers classes. Students will benefit from having another weaving instructor, even for one term. Pedagogy supports a variety of instructional styles and skills.

For surface design instruction, the classroom needs an upgrade. The double sink needs to be replaced with stainless steel. The stovetop needs to be replaced, and respirators should be available to students. Our ventilation was improved last year. This equipment/studio upgrade could be phased in later, as resources permit.

Note: As the weaving instructor, I teach in 3 classrooms in 2 buildings in the same time period. The remedy for this situation is to locate the weaving classes in one larger studio space. It seems that this will not happen until another bond measure is approved that will provide LCC with a new art building.

Students are ready and excited now to work in these studio classes. At least twice a year, I introduce a surface design technique along with the woven structure. This is always received well, but is somewhat frustrating for both students and instructor, since there is not enough time to develop the content. Students from other art studio area have requested these course as well. For example, sculpture students are interested in the medium, and painting and printmaking students want to learn to make paper.

In conclusion, this proposal is economical, feasible, and a boon to students. It is consistent with the mission and the goals of the college, and should be a priority request in the Art Department. It has been emphasized in Lane's Vision, that LCC is committed to strengthening its existing programs. This proposal addresses exactly that, a long awaited and well planned expansion of the fibers program.

submitted by Marilyn Robert
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