

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 3, 2004

Attendees: Blase Scarnati, Pat Muster, Kapri Saunders, Rebecca Cole, Anne Medill, Gayle Houser, Cynthia Conn, Bruce Fox, Aregai Tecle, Jack Ferrell, Karen Pugliesi, Dean Pielstick, Laura Michael-Blocher and Marcia Metcalf

Absent: John Doherty, Margaret Conger, Jeffery Berglund and Eileen Mahoney

Guest: Paula Garcia

I. Welcome and Introductions – Blase Scarnati

- The next meeting will take place on January 21, 2005
- The Annual Conference on the First Year Experience will be held in Phoenix, February 6 – February 8, 2005. Please let Blase or Karen Pugliesi know if you are interested in attending the Conference. The Provost Office will be funding Liberal Studies Committee member's attendance. Also, be aware that one of the Conference presenters will be on campus February 4 and will have a dedicated session with the LSC. Karen Pugliesi will send the conference URL to LSC so they may review the conference information.
- Gayle Houser would like to attend the conference and Bruce Fox would like to send Anne Scott (Honors Program).

II. Approval of minutes

- November 19, 2004 minutes approved with minor revision

III. Syllabi report

- ANT 105 – Revisions needed
- ANT 211 – Review continued
- ANT 310 – Approved with minor revisions requested
- ANT 311 – Approved with minor revisions requested
- ANT 312 – Approved with minor revisions requested
- ANT 407C – Review continued
- MUS 183 – Review continued
- MUS 184 – Review continued

IV. LS Program discussion

- Distribution of a document with draft talking points on possible changes in the liberal studies program.
- It was pointed out that there is one major difference between the new proposal and the old program: the themes have been eliminated on the new proposal they have not been used in a meaningful manner.
- The heart of the new program may be through the skill sets.

- Discussion ensued by the Committee as to possibly changing some talking points.
- Foundation courses – change to a different name that is meaningful like “gateway” or “essentials.”
- Essentials may be a good place to put FYE, freshman year seminar and/or the summer reading discussions.
- Articulate to students how the entire program contributes to citizenship.
- Need better literature with graphics to explain the program better.
- Need a freshman course that is taught by full-time NAU faculty. Possibilities:
 - Monthly seminars on subjects (i.e. ethics). Students would be excused from normal classes to attend.
 - Also need something for transfer students so there is consistency.
- Start with skills then attitudes which lead to knowledge. Keep adding more sophisticated courses as students progress through the program.
- Lumberjack Welcome Week should have more programs available/mandatory for students early in the week or do not let students move on campus so early.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM