

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 1, 2005

Attendees: Blase Scarnati, Pat Muster, Kapri Saunders, Anne Medill, Gayle Houser, Bruce Fox, Dean Pielstick, Laura Michael-Blocher, David Sherry, Tom Paradis and Jeff Berglund

Absent: John Doherty, Eileen Mahoney, Karen Pugliesi, Jack Ferrell, Rebecca Cole, Aregai Tecle and Marcia Metcalf

I. Welcome and Introductions – Blase Scarnati

- Thank you to Jeff Berglund for taking the March 4 Minutes.
- The April 15 meeting will include members of the Faculty Senate Liberal Studies Review Committee (LSRC).
- The LSRC will be hosting upcoming forums.
- The Liberal Studies Committee Retreat is postponed until Fall 2005.

II. Approval of minutes

- March 4, 2005 minutes approved with corrections

III. Syllabi report

- No updates

IV. Updating of LS syllabi on file

- Discussed posting copies of Liberal Studies course syllabi to Academic Information Office web site's list of Approved Liberal Studies Courses. Committee members will speak with colleagues about issues concerning posting copies of their syllabi on the web.
- Discussed possible timelines, if Committee decides to implement a policy: possibly post syllabi semester by semester.

V. Topics course cover sheet

- Committee approved the Topics Course Cover Sheet with minor revisions
- Blase Scarnati will rework the Topics Course Cover Sheet to fit multi-sectioned courses and bring it to the Committee at a future meeting.

VI. Communications Plan

- Bruce Fox discussed how the Communication Plan was created to address the misconceptions about the Liberal Studies Committee and Program. It can also be used to open communication about the assessment of Liberal Studies courses with departments. The Plan is designed, in part, to deliberately create dialogues with constituencies both early and regularly to explain Liberal Studies issues.

- The Committee discussed the Plan. Issues concerning the LSRC and its role in the Plan, concern about the current LS Program and its mission of citizenship, and the University's mission were voiced.

VII. Other

- David Sherry will check with the Faculty Senate concerning the revisions of the Liberal Studies Committee By-Laws.
- Tom Paradis distributed a proposal for promoting learner-centered education and assessment at NAU. The Committee discussed the proposal and how the Committee can participate, or not.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM