

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 23, 2005

Attendees: David Best, Doug Brown, Brandon Cruikshank, Jack Ferrell Bruce Fox, Louise Lockard, Anne Medill, Marcia Metcalf, Laura Michael-Blocher, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Blase Scarnati (presiding), David Sherry, and Megan Tapley (for Ryan Rodriguez).

Absent: Jeff Berglund, Cynthia Conn, John Doherty, Eileen Mahoney, Tom Paradis, Ryan Rodriguez, Aregai Tecele.

Guests: Katie Desmond and Paula Garcia.

I. Welcome and introductions – Blase Scarnati

- Welcome to Megan Tapley who is substituting for ASNAU representative Ryan Rodriguez.
- The LSC Membership List was reviewed for corrections.

II. Approval of minutes – All

- Review of the September 9, 2005 Minutes was deferred until the next regular meeting.

III. Subcommittees – All

- The LSC Subcommittee structure for 2005-06 and the charge of each Subcommittee were discussed.
- Membership for the following Subcommittees was solicited.
 - Assessment Subcommittee (Bruce Fox, Chair)
 - Bylaws Revision Subcommittee (David Sherry, Chair)
 - Course Review Subcommittees (Jeff Berglund, Laura Michael-Blocher, and Anne Medill, Chairs)
 - Program Subcommittee (Blase Scarnati, Chair)
 - Summer Reading Coordinator Search Committee

IV. Updates and discussion items – Karen Pugliesi

- NAU Report to ABOR
 - There was discussion of the Arizona University redesign process, community colleges and four year programs, and issues of accessibility and affordability.
 - The three University Presidents will present a report to ABOR on October 29, 2005. LSC members are encouraged to attend.
 - Discussion of the Report's emphasis on a commitment to quality and high expectations for our students.

- Implications are that a strong and coherent Liberal Studies Program is key to the success of our students. As per previous discussions within the LSC, we need to promote the engagement of our faculty with Liberal Studies. We need to assess what our students learn.
- Liberal Studies Advisory Board Proposal
 - It appears that this is not be the right time for this proposal. The effort required would be considerable and it would require more human resources than we have at this time. It would make more sense to think of this as a long term strategy.
- Summer Reading Program
 - Feedback from students and facilitators involved in the 2005 Summer Reading Program is being compiled and it will be shared as soon as it is available.
 - Reactions were mainly positive, although there are mixed responses to the book. Other problems included the scheduling of the discussions on a problematic date.
 - Rebecca Cola and Laura Michael-Blocher volunteered to do much of the work this year, but next year there will be a course release available for a Summer Reading Program Coordinator. Blase Scarnati will set up a search subcommittee among members of the LSC. Rebecca Cole and Eric Yordy will assist the Coordinator.
- General Education Articulation Task Force
 - At the most recent ATF meeting, faculty from Yavapai and Coconino Community Colleges expressed an interest meeting with NAU faculty to discuss our Liberal Studies Program.
 - They are interested in the issues of 1) how well their transfer students do at NAU and 2) our learning outcomes for the Liberal Studies Program.
 - In discussion it was decided to meet during our regularly scheduled meeting time on October 21, 2005. Karen Pugliesi will arrange for the meeting location and distribute the information when it is available. We will also invite Diné and Northland Pioneer Colleges. Members of the Faculty Senate Liberal Studies Review Committee, interested colleagues, and students will also be invited.
- Celebration of Academic Achievement
 - Bruce Fox is coordinating this event to recognize students with high GPAs. It will be a showcase for students to present, display, or perform their projects during Family Week. Linda Shadiow will be the featured faculty speaker. Henry Hooper will be recognized during the event for the contributions that he made to our undergraduates over the years.

V. Assessment Pilot Project retreat – Blase Scarnati and Katie Desmond

- Do to time constraints, an update was deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

VI. Communication plan – Blase Scarnati

- The Program Subcommittee will coordinate communication activities.
- LS Program information is included in joint presentations by E-Learning, Office of Academic Assessment, and Cline Library. The first presentation is scheduled for October 5, 2005.
- A hard copy of the LS information was passed around the Committee for review.

VII. Course review– All (Voting members only)

- An update on the status of course reviews for 2004-05 and 2005-06 was presented.
- Details of a future norming session for course reviews were discussed and materials were distributed for review.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.