

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
Minutes
October 13, 2006

Approved 10-27-06

Attendees: Jeff Berglund (presiding), Doug Brown, Katie Desmond, John Doherty, Jack Farrell (via phone), Bruce Fox, Dayle Hardy-Short, James Leve, Louise Lockard, Eileen Mahoney, Anne Medill, Laura Michael-Blocher, Shelly Pleasants, and David Sherry.

I. Welcome and introductions

- Jeff Berglund welcomed the few people who were there at 3:00 and a short discussion followed regarding the poor attendance. By 3:10 there was a quorum and the meeting began.

II. Approval of minutes

- The minutes from the 9-15-06 meeting were approved.
- The minutes from the 9-29-06 meeting were approved.

III. Approval of Bylaws

- The bylaws were approved with two minor changes
 - Article III, Section 1.2 will read, “Ex-officio, Non-Voting Members (by reason of position held)”
 - Article III, Section 1.3, the first sentence will read, “The total membership of the Liberal Studies Committee shall be twenty-eight (28), consisting of sixteen (16) voting members and twelve (12) non-voting, ex-officio members.”

IV. Freshman Seminar Coordinator

- The search committee has been selected: Jeff Berglund, Anne Medill, Marin Robinson, Miguel Vasquez, and Linda Shadiow.
- The provost’s revisions to the position description were discussed.

V. Aligning previously approved courses

- There was much discussion about aligning previously approved courses with new distribution blocks. The Gateway may have issues advising freshmen about the new requirements since they are not yet posted on the web. We may need to update the liberal studies web site, but make it clear that the new program is not yet in effect.
- Discussions revealed that many details have yet to be worked out.
 - Will it be necessary to require all courses to be resubmitted?
 - If so, how will that enormous workload be handled?
 - Could the courses be resubmitted on a rotation?
 - Could the data already collected by the office of Academic Assessment be used to target certain courses for resubmission?

- Once the new process is in place, should a monitoring rotation be implemented to check for syllabus creep?

VI. Pilot plan to introduce liberal studies and the freshman seminar to colleges

- In light of all the unanswered questions surrounding implementation of the new requirements, it was decided that the meetings with the colleges will be postponed at least until spring '07. When the time comes, Anne Medill and Jim Leve agreed to work with Jeff Berglund to visit CAL and SBS, respectively.
- In the meantime, Jeff Berglund, Katie Desmond, and Jim Leve will work with Eileen Mahoney and her advisors at the Gateway.
- David Sherry will check to see if the Faculty Senate Liberal Studies Review Committee ever updated their report to include our recommendations.

VII. Skills definitions

- The subcommittees worked on their skills definitions. Jeff Berglund requested that each committee send a report to him by 10-25-06 so he can put the discussion and submission for approval on the agenda for the 10-27-06 meeting.

Adjourn