

**LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**  
**October 27, 2006**

**Approved 11-3-06**

Attendees: David Best, Doug Brown, Brandon Cruikshank, Katie Desmond, Jack Farrell (via phone), Bruce Fox, Dayle Hardy-Short, James Leve, Louise Lockard, Anne Medill, Marcia Metcalf, Laura Michael-Blocher, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Enid Rossi, David Sherry (presiding), and Aregai Tecele.

**I. Welcome and introductions**

- Jeff Berglund was unable to attend, so David Sherry presided. He proposed to add an item to the agenda regarding the resubmission of courses for liberal studies.

**II. New ASNAU representative**

- Justin Willcox is no longer representing ASNAU on the liberal studies committee. Jeff Berglund has requested that a replacement be assigned.

**III. Approval of minutes**

- The 10-13-06 minutes were approved.

**IV. Freshman Seminar Coordinator**

- Anne Medill reported that the search committee is hoping to have the final two candidates give short presentations on November 27 & 28. She encouraged everyone to forward names of viable candidates to Karen Pugliesi. Karen agreed to resend the announcement to faculty.

**V. Meeting with the Gateway AAC November 8, 10:30a**

- Members of the liberal studies committee (Jeff Berglund, Jim Leve, Katie Desmond and Eileen Mahoney) will conduct a 30-40 minute meeting with the Academic Advising Council. Tentative topics for discussion are:
  - How LS requirements add value to a student's educational experience
  - LS changes effective Fall 07
  - Freshman Seminar update
  - Fostering appreciation among students for LS
  - Training faculty advisors

**VI. Resubmission of courses for liberal studies**

- Concerns were expressed at the last meeting regarding the mass resubmission of old liberal studies courses for inclusion in the revised program. Jeff Berglund had distributed for this meeting a handout showing an excerpt from the approved 3-13-06 FSRC report stating, "... the Program would not entail a mass, Program-wide resubmission of courses for approval."

- Karen Pugliesi offered a handout with possible strategies for assuring curricular alignment within the liberal studies program. The three overarching strategies are:
  - Periodic review of all distribution block courses on an on-going basis.
  - Sample (probability) of distribution block courses reviewed each year.
  - Depend upon department leaders and faculty to sustain alignment of courses over time.
  
- A few alternative strategies were proposed for ongoing review of current LS courses, including starting with the highest enrollment courses which affect the largest number of students.
  
- The office of Academic Assessment will assist in the review process so the LS committee will not need to go through every syllabus with a rubric. Katie Desmond referred to work already done and summarized in the report titled, “A Content Analysis of Liberal Studies Course Syllabi Teaching Effective Writing, Critical Reading and Oral Communication,” which can be found out <http://www4.nau.edu/assessment/oaalibrary/documents/LiberalStudiesContentAnalysisStudyFall2005.doc>.

## **VII. Summary of new liberal studies**

- A handout (draft) was distributed containing lots of useful information about the new liberal studies requirements effective fall 2007, as well as other university requirements. The document is intended to be reviewed and discussed at a later date.

## **VIII. NCATE**

- Karen Pugliesi distributed an informational handout regarding NAU’s pursuit of NCATE accreditation.

## **IX. Skills definitions and outcomes**

- A handout containing the draft definitions for quantitative reasoning, scientific reasoning, and critical thinking was distributed. The definition for quantitative reasoning was the closest to being finished so it was discussed first. The definition was corrected to “quantitative reasoning” rather than “quantitative literacy” and the numbering of the learning outcomes was corrected. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of an additional learning outcome, the ability to recognize and understand common mathematical symbols. It was decided that this outcome was of a remedial nature, and so not appropriate for the learning outcomes. A motion to have the math department review the definition was voted

down. Time did not permit the final approval of any of the skills definitions.

**X. Miscellaneous**

- Several committee members expressed a desire for Jeff Berglund to create a timeline of all the things that need to be accomplished during this academic year, including, but not limited to, preparations for the new LS implementation, hiring a coordinator and designing the freshman seminar program, formulating new catalog copy for the freshman seminar program, planning a review process for LS courses, and defining skills and learning outcomes.

Adjourned