

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
Minutes
November 17, 2006

Approved 12-1-06

Attendees: Jeff Berglund (presiding), Brandon Cruikshank, Doug Brown, Katie Davis, Katie Desmond, John Doherty, Jack Ferrell (via phone), Marcus Ford, Dayle Hardy-Short, Louise Lockard, Eileen Mahoney, Anne Medill, Marcia Metcalf, Laura Michael-Blocher, Shelly Pleasants, Enid Rossi, David Sherry and Aregai Teclé.

I. Welcome and introductions

- Jeff introduced Katie Davis, the new ASNAU representative. Everyone introduced themselves to her.
- Jeff welcomed Marcus Ford, who requested a few minutes to address the committee

II. Marcus Ford

Dr. Ford expressed his concern that our current curriculum does not educate our students well in the area of big, contemporary issues, such as current events, climate change, Islamic culture, and Middle-Eastern geography. He emphasized that the concepts of the Seven Revolutions Project could be implemented. He felt that the liberal studies program would be the most appropriate place to deal with this issue, perhaps with the 3-hr wild card. Several committee members suggested that the new freshman seminar program would be an appropriate venue to address this issue.

III. Freshman Seminar Coordinator search

- Anne asked for volunteers to attend the presentations on Nov 27 & 28.
- Jeff thanked Eileen, Katie, and Jim for introducing the freshman seminar program to the academic advising council.

IV. Approval of minutes

The 11-3-06 meeting minutes were approved.

V. Freshman seminar templates

- A motion was passed to change the name of the freshman seminar program to liberal studies seminar.
- A proposed numbering system was discussed.
- Eileen will bring an example to the next meeting showing how topics courses appear on students' transcripts.
- There was discussion regarding restricting the liberal studies seminar to a one-time-only experience for students (non-repeatability).

- There was discussion regarding restricting the liberal studies seminar to students with fewer than 30 NAU credit hours.
- There was lengthy discussion regarding the definition for the Social and Political Worlds liberal studies template, but no consensus was reached. The committee will update their draft and re-submit it for committee approval at the next meeting.

Adjourn