

Minutes

August 31, 2007

Attendees: David Best, John Doherty, Jack Ferrell (via phone), Bruce Fox, Louise Lockard, Dayle Hardy-Short (presiding), Helaine McLain, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Reed Riner (guest), Blase Scarnati, Anne Scott (guest), and David Sherry.

I. Welcome

Dayle Hardy-Short, the new committee chair, welcomed everyone to the new academic year. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Approval of 4-27-07 minutes

There were not enough voting members present for a quorum, so the approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

III. Paper usage

In an effort to reduce paper waste, agendas and other pertinent information for future meetings will be distributed to the committee electronically, primarily by Shelly Pleasants, by the Thursday morning prior to the Friday afternoon meeting. Hard copies of handouts will no longer be provided at the meeting unless special circumstances render it necessary.

IV. Summer Reading Program

Anne Scott provided an update regarding the 8-25-07 event. It was a success with participation of close to 500 students. Provided it is available in paperback by April 2008, next summer they will use A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. If it is not available in paperback, they have several possible backup choices that can be used instead, and A Long Way Gone can be used the following summer.

V. Long range planning

Karen Pugliesi discussed the Strategic Plan document that has been distributed to all NAU faculty and staff. She highlighted that the goals are in alignment with the work this committee has been doing, particularly with a focus on student learning and global engagement. She also notified the committee of the new vice provost for international affairs, Dr. Harvey Charles, who, at some point, will want to engage with this committee to discuss the liberal studies program as it pertains to plans to increase global learning throughout the university's curricula and programs.

VI. First Year Seminar

Blase Scarnati provided an update regarding the status of this new program. There are ten pilot sections this fall with interesting topics ranging from Cancer to Harry Potter.

VII. Discussion of alignment project

The departments who have volunteered to engage in their alignment process this semester have been identified. Each will have a liaison from the liberal studies committee to assist them. A summary sheet for each department's packet will be used to quickly determine which courses will need to be forwarded to the UCC and which will not. This will assist the committee with prioritizing the workload to enable success in meeting UCC deadlines.

VIII. Liberal Studies proposals (not part of realignment project)

The first couple of submissions will be reviewed by the entire committee (as a refresher about the process), then subcommittees will be established to review the subsequent courses.

IX. Think big – Think assessment

Karen Pugliesi encouraged the committee to build on their accomplishments of last year with the essential skills by identifying key program outcomes in relation to program goals and distribution blocks. She is optimistic that we can identify a limited number of broad, key indicators that will enable us to assess the full array of learning that takes place here at NAU.

X. NCA site visit

Karen Pugliesi provided an update regarding the NCA site visit on October 22-24, 2007. She provided copies of a few select pages from the self study document (The entire document can be found at <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~nca-p/>). Please pay special attention to criteria 3 and 4. The accreditation team will want to meet with this committee on Tuesday, October 23, probably at 9:45-10:45 (notice will be given when the itinerary is finalized).

Adjourned.

Remaining fall 2007 meetings:

Sept 14, 28

Oct 12, 26

Nov 9, 30

Dec 7