

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
Minutes
September 14, 2007

Approved 10-12-07

Attendees: T.S. Amer, Don Carter, John Doherty, Bruce Fox, Becky Garrison, Dayle Hardy-Short (presiding), Louise Lockard, Eileen Mahoney, Helaine McLain, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati, and David Sherry.

I. Welcome and introductions

Dayle Hardy-Short welcomed everyone and we went around the room and introduced ourselves. Dayle shared the good news that next summer the book for the summer reading program will be purchased by NAU and provided (free of charge) to all freshmen.

II. Approval of 4-27-07 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved with one correction to the attendance list.

III. Approval of 8-31-07 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved with one correction regarding the number of sections for the Fall 2007 First year seminar.

IV. First Year Seminar program

Blase Scarnati provided an update on the program and a handout listing the fall courses. There are ten this semester and enrollments are good. Department chairs have been very supportive. Courses are already being lined up for spring and fall 2008.

V. LS Assessment Mini-grants

Tom Paradis provided a brief summary about the mini-grants his office (Academic Assessment) is providing to faculty who wish to participate in this voluntary assessment project. This assessment project is separate from the liberal studies realignment process, but once a course has been realigned to the new liberal studies requirements, it will be an opportune time to assess the course, so this is being encouraged through these mini-grants. The office of Academic Assessment has contacted all departments planning to realign their courses for the fall, and they will work directly with Tom on determining who will participate and the final grant amount. Helpful resources for participating faculty are available on the OAA web site, including sample rubrics for each LS skill.

VI. Alignment Project

Dayle summarized for new members the work that was done last year to define learning outcomes and essential skills, and explained that this fall the liberal studies committee will work with a handful of volunteer departments to realign their existing liberal studies curriculum to the new requirements. Each volunteer department will be assigned a liaison from the liberal studies committee to guide them through this process. In general, participating departments will be asked to revise liberal studies syllabi to reflect recent changes in the liberal studies program. These changes include: (1) dropping references to the thematic foci; (2) identifying a single "essential skill" that the course will teach and

assess (from effective writing, effective oral communication, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, scientific reasoning); (3) making sure that the correct distribution block is identified; (4) making sure that the syllabus meets the university-approved guidelines for course syllabi; and (5) determining the continuing role of the particular course in the department's overall participation in liberal studies.

VII. General Education Articulation Task Force meeting report

Due to time constraints, Karen Pugliesi will give this report at the next meeting

VIII. Interrater Reliability

The syllabus review rubric will be updated and distributed to the committee via email. Each member will use that rubric to evaluate ENG 247 (which just happened to be the first course submitted this semester) and send their form to Dayle via email attachment. She will compile the results and discuss them at the next meeting. Once the committee is comfortable with the process, all subsequent course proposals will be processed first by subcommittees, which will give their recommendations to the full committee, which will subsequently vote on the proposal.

IX. Updates on NCA

Due to time constraints, we were not able to receive an NCA update from Karen Pugliesi.

Adjourned

Remaining fall 2007 meetings:

Sep 28

Oct 12, 26

Nov 9, 30

Dec 7