

LIBERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
Minutes
April 25, 2008

Approved 9-19-08

Present Voting Members: Cruz Begay, David Best, Jack Ferrell (via phone), Becky Garrison (via phone), James Leve, Louise Lockard, Helaine McLain, Vicki Ross, David Sherry (presiding), Aregai Tecele, and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: John Doherty, Tom Paradis, Karen Pugliesi, Shelly Pleasants, and Blase Scarnati.

Excused Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Brandon Cruickshank, and Dayle Hardy-Short.

Absent Voting Members: ASNAU representative and Doug Brown.

David Sherry called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. Approval of minutes

The April 11, 2008 minutes were approved with one minor correction.

II. Announcements

- Normally, at this, the last meeting of the semester, we would elect a committee chair for next year, but at the request of the faculty senate, we will postpone that election until the first meeting of the fall. This will allow the new committee members to participate in the election.
- For the first meeting of the fall, which is scheduled for September 5, 2008, we will plan an afternoon retreat, starting with lunch, sponsored by the office of the vice provost for undergraduate studies. This will be an opportunity to welcome new members to the committee and orient them to the policies of the program and procedures of the committee. It will also be an opportunity for the committee to discuss the background of the program, recent changes and accomplishments, and to set priorities for what we would like to accomplish going forward. Virginia Blankenship will be invited to attend the retreat to explain to the new members the reasons behind the changes that took effect in fall 2007. As a resource for committee members, Karen Pugliesi will develop a liberal studies handbook containing pertinent information about the program, such as goals, policies and practices.

- Dayle Hardy-Short has requested courses for alignment from several departments but has not received many.

III. Alignment discussion

The committee discussed the burden that has fallen upon the liberal studies chair to communicate between LS subcommittee chairs and faculty/departments regarding their syllabi alignment proposals; particularly concerning the need to make revisions. There continues to be concern about the number of courses being proposed that do not meet the criteria of the program. A motion was approved to reassign the responsibility of communicating with faculty/departments about their syllabi to the subcommittee chairs rather than the committee chair.

IV. Existing LS courses for Alignment review

A. Approved as proposed

- ENG 110
- ENG 242
- ENG 243
- ENG 251
- ENG 252
- SC 111

B. Approved with a request for minor revisions, which will be communicated to the department chairs.

- ENG 245
- ENG 253

C. Discussed but not approved. The committee chair will work with the department chair to revise the proposals for future review.

- ENG 335
- ENG 366
- ENG 380
- ENG 381

V. Karen Pugliesi comments on variation within a syllabus and skill tracking

- The committee briefly discussed the uses and differences between master syllabi and common syllabi.
- The committee briefly discussed the merits of tracking skills in addition to distribution blocks. Karen P. explained that our new database will track skills and the data collected throughout this realignment process will be very useful. Courses can be tagged by skill as well as distribution block, and although students will not be required to enroll in courses offering particular skills, it is hoped that this added information will assist both advisors and students with planning their academic careers.

VI. Good of the order.

- David Best, Jack Ferrell, Dayle Hardy-Short, Louise Lockard, and David Sherry are ending their three-year terms on the LS committee.
- Cruz Begay and Helaine McLain are also rotating off the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Scheduled meetings for next semester:
Sep 5, 19; Oct 3, 17, 31; Nov 14; Dec 5