



**Liberal Studies Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2008**

Approved 9-19-08

Present Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Doug Brown, Becky Garrison, Ryan Holder, James Leve, Alyssa McKinley, Linda Robyn, Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati, Joseph Wegwert, and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: Sara Aleman, Virginia Bankenship, Don Carter, Bruce Fox, Greg Glau, Tom Paradis, Anne Scott, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi (presiding), and Melinda Treml.

Excused Voting Members: Aregai Tecele..

Absent Voting Members: None.

Karen Pugliesi called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. Introductions

This was the first meeting of the term and there were some new members and invited guests, so everyone took a few minutes to introduce themselves.

II. Program Packet

Binders of material were provided for everyone and Dr. Pugliesi went through it and briefly explained each item to the committee.

III. Mission & Goals: Get Acquainted Exercise

The committee members were asked to read the Liberal Studies Overview document, find a partner, and talk about it. Then, as a group, themes from the individual discussions were identified and discussed.

IV. Program History

Karen Pugliesi gave a brief history of the inception of the Liberal Studies Program in 1999. Virginia Blankenship talked about the senate liberal studies review of the program in 2005 and the changes that were implemented in fall 2007. As a result of those changes, the First Year Seminar was created and the existing course realignment project was initiated.

V. Assessment

Referring to one of the documents in the binder, Tom Paradis gave a brief history of NAU liberal studies assessment. There are two projects: Liberal Studies skills assessment; and Liberal Studies assessment plan. Rubrics that can be used as a starting point for faculty, as well as other useful information, can be found on their web site <http://www4.nau.edu/assessment/>.

VI. Agenda for 2008-2009

Karen Pugliesi proposed several items to be addressed by the committee this year, including: completing the alignment of current liberal studies courses; making a plan to capture course-embedded assessment data; making a plan for ongoing alignment review; reviewing/approving new course proposals; and strengthening faculty engagement.

VII. Interests, Concerns, Hopes and Fears

- The committee broke into three groups and discussed their interests, concerns, hopes, and fears about their role on the liberal studies committee and about the program in general. Then, as a whole, the committee discussed strategies to reach the goals and overcome the fears.
- The committee voted to use a subcommittee structure for syllabus review.

VIII. Election of Officers

The voting members of the committee were encouraged to email shelly.pleasants@nau.edu by 9-12-08 with nominations for liberal studies chair and vice chair. Elections will be held anonymously via email before the next meeting.

IX. Director of Liberal Studies

One of the recommendations of the senate liberal studies review committee was that we create a position of Director of Liberal Studies. Sometime over the next year, an Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education is going to be hired. This presents an opportunity to better support the work of the Liberal Studies Committee as stewards of the Liberal Studies Program. Karen Pugliesi presented a proposal to the Faculty Senate that the Associate Vice Provost serve as chair of the Liberal Studies Committee to facilitate its operation and carry out its directions in work with academic units and faculty across the university. The Faculty Senate is going to discuss this proposal next week.

Adjourned