



## LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

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### Liberal Studies Committee Meeting Minutes October 31, 2008

**Approved 11-14-08**

Present Voting Members: Betty Brown, Ryan Holder, James Leve, Linda Robyn, Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati (presiding), Cheryl St. George and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: Greg Glau, Eileen Mahoney, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants and Karen Pugliesi.

Excused Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Becky Garrison, Aregai Tecele and Joseph Wegwert.

Absent Voting Members: Doug Brown, Alyssa McKinley and Brent Nelson.

#### I. Welcome, introductions, issues

- Blase Scarnati called the meeting to order at 3:02p.
- The committee members introduced themselves to Cheryl St. George, new representative from HHS (Nursing).

#### II. Acceptance of minutes

The 10-17-08 minutes were approved.

#### III. Discussion of the LS Program

- Blase distributed a handout from the provost titled "Guidelines for Budget Reduction for FY09 and Planning for FY10." Item #9 on that document, 'Curricular efficiency' was discussed as it might pertain to the management of the Liberal Studies Program.
- The following three-part resolution was adopted:

**1.A. The Liberal Studies Committee will immediately suspend the current alignment process and institute a moratorium on the review of new distribution block courses. This decision will not affect Junior Level Writing and Senior Capstone course proposals or reviews.**

**1.B. The Committee will work with departments and colleges to complete a 'snap' alignment of all Liberal Studies courses with the new program requirements by the conclusion of the Fall 2008 term so**

**that the status of all courses will be determined for the 2009 NAU Catalog. The Committee will solicit from departments information necessary for alignment: the distribution block and one essential skill for focus and assessment for each course. Departments will be expected to adjust their Master Syllabus for each course in accordance with the Liberal Studies Master Course Syllabus Template, but will not be required to submit syllabi for review. No action will be required for courses that have already been re-aligned through Committee review.**

**2. The Liberal Studies Committee will immediately begin discussion of the Liberal Studies Program structure and the distribution of courses in the Program over the blocks, skills, and their student learning outcomes. The Committee plans to complete its discussion by the conclusion of the Spring 2009 term.**

**3. The Liberal Studies Committee will decide at the end of the Spring 2009 term when to resume the revised alignment process and lift the moratorium on the review of new distribution block courses. The revised alignment review will then begin at the time decided and new distribution block courses will then be considered.**

- Blase would like to appoint a working group to form ideas and bring back proposals to the committee. He will email everyone over the weekend to solicit interest.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30p.