



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

Approved 1-16-09

Present Voting Members: T.S. Amer (via phone), Betty Brown, Becky Garrison (via phone), James Leve, Alyssa McKinley, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn, Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati (presiding), Cheryl St. George, Aregai Tecele, Joseph Wegwert and Todd Welch.

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

Excused Voting Members: Ryan Holder and Robert Rose.

Absent Voting Members: Doug Brown.

I. Welcome, introductions, issues

Becky Garrison (via phone) called the meeting to order at 3:03p.

II. Acceptance of minutes

The 11-14-08 minutes were approved.

III. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Program

- Karen Pugliesi led a broad discussion of the liberal studies program until Blase Scarnati arrived. She provided a handout entitled “University Learning Goals & Thematic Strands” which outlined 6 principles of the LS program; the 4 essential skills of the LS program; degree program learning goals; and 3 thematic strands. All portions of this document were discussed. In particular, the notion of threading the 6 principles through all liberal studies courses was embraced.
- The committee expressed a desire to enhance our current LS program and to then endeavor to clearly articulate the value of that program to faculty and students.

IV. Establishing Program baseline

Tom Paradis provided a handout which listed some surveys that are currently available. This data could help to assess the current program in an effort to target areas for improvement. Other topics of interest can be sent to Tom to be added to the list. This item will be discussed in more detail in the January 16, 2009 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03p.

Parking Lot items for future discussion:

- Initial student assessment of LS needs – student driven.
- Thematic strands – discussion continued.