



LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

**Liberal Studies Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2009**

Approved 4-17-09

Present Voting Members: Bill Grabe, Ryan Holder, Linda Robyn, Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati (presiding), Cheryl St. George, Aregai Tecele, and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: Don Carter, John Hagood, Kathryn Kozak, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, John Stevenson, and Melinda Treml.

Excused Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Betty Brown, Doug Brown, Becky Garrison, and Brent Nelson.

Absent Voting Members: Alyssa McKinley, and Joseph Wegwert.

I. Welcome, introductions, issues

- Blase Scarnati called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.
- In order to avoid meeting the Friday before spring break, we will meet again next Friday (March 6).

II. Decoding the Disciplines

The Committee engaged in a follow-up discussion regarding the presentation that Linda Shadiow made at the last meeting. The Committee agreed that the principles could be useful and agreed to accept Linda's offer to provide a workshop on Decoding the Disciplines.

III. Acceptance of minutes

The 2-13-09 minutes were approved.

IV. Degree progression plan analysis

- Melinda Treml presented data which shows that students are advised, through degree progression plans, to take liberal studies courses throughout their NAU career, as opposed to their first two years.
- Follow-up information on when students *actually* take liberal studies courses will complement this data and help guide the committee in their decisions about things such as enrollment capacity projections.

V. Chairperson interview project

In a previous meeting, some of the Committee members expressed an interest in knowing what the NAU community thinks about the Liberal Studies Program. As

a preliminary step, John Stevenson is planning to interview twenty department chairs. He presented a draft of interview questions for discussion and approval by the Committee. These will be in-person, one-on-one, 20-30 minute interviews that he plans to start scheduling right away.

VI. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Program.

- Blase Scarnati, Bill Grabe, TS Amer, and Betty Brown are working on Student Learning Outcomes. They will have something to present at the next meeting.
- Tom Paradis is going to schedule an Assessment Subcommittee meeting with T.S. Amer, Bruce Fox, Ryan Holder, Alyssa McKinley, Cheryl St. George, Blase Scarnati, John Stevenson, Melinda Treml, and Todd Welch to discuss the liberal studies baseline assessment process.
- Developing a Liberal Studies Program strategic plan will be discussed in forthcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.