

**Liberal Studies Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2009**

**Approved 9-25-09**

Present Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Betty Brown, Becky Garrison, John Leung, Irene Matthews, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn (presiding), Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Jin Wang, Joe Wegwert, and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members: Lauren Buck, Todd Firth, Greg Glau, Kathryn Kozak, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Blase Scarnati, and Melinda Treml.

Excused Voting Members: Kathleen Templin.

Absent Voting Members: Doug Brown and Dennis Tanner.

**I. Introductions**

- Linda Robyn called the meeting to order at 2:06PM.
- All the committee members introduced themselves.

**II. Liberal Studies Program Packet**

Karen Pugliesi walked the committee through all the documents that were in their liberal studies binder.

**III. Liberal Studies Program Mission & Goals: Get Acquainted Exercise**

The Liberal Studies Overview document was read, and then the committee got into small groups to discuss how the LS program relates to their individual work and the work of their departments. A short group discussion followed.

**IV. Liberal Studies Program Strategic Plan / Agenda for 2009-2010**

Linda Robyn went through the strategic plan and explained how it would shape our agenda for the year.

**V. Learning Subcommittee Report**

Tom Paradis explained that the Learning Subcommittee (formerly known as the Assessment Subcommittee) met four times over the summer and accomplished the following, as charged by the LSC during spring, 2009:

- 1) Created a short-term and long-term assessment plan for 09-10 and beyond,
- 2) Drafted a vision statement for potential “faculty communities” to be organized in the fall and implemented during spring, 2010, and

- 3) Developed a survey that will soon be given to all NAU faculty and chairs. The survey was directly informed by Dr. John Stevenson's initial interviews with Chairs during spring, 2009.

**VI. First Year Seminar Program and Sophomore Course Report**

- Blase Scarnati gave an overview and update on activities in the First Year Seminar Program and in the Sophomore course (UC/USC 299 State of the World) to the new members of the committee.
- FYSeminar courses will begin a pilot this Fall at the request of the LSC (Spring 2009) to demonstrate critical thinking through one of the other skills (effective writing, effective oral communication, scientific inquiry, or quantitative reasoning).

**VII. Committee Protocols / Practices**

- Linda Robyn briefly explained the LSC protocols and practices to the new members.
- TS Amer will serve as Vice Chair of the LSC.
- Becky Garrison will represent the LSC on the Diversity Sub-committee.

4:30p Ex-Officio members were excused

**VIII. Training**

TS Amer met with the new voting members to teach them how to use the rubric to review course proposal syllabi.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.