

**Liberal Studies Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2010**

**Approved 4-23-10**

*Present Voting Members:* T.S. Amer, Betty Brown, Chunhye Lee, John Leung, Linda Robyn (presiding), Vicki Ross (via phone), Dennis Tanner, Jin Wang, and Todd Welch.

*Present Ex-Officio Members:* Don Carter, Todd Firth, Greg Glau, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Blase Scarnati, and Melinda Trembl.

*Excused Voting Members:* Irene Matthews, Rebecca Garrison

*Absent Voting Members:* Doug Brown, Brent Nelson, Robert Rose, Kathleen Templin, and Joseph Wegwert.

**I. Welcome, introductions – Linda Robyn**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

**II. Acceptance of minutes – Linda Robyn**

The 2-19-10 minutes were approved.

**III. Faculty Engagement for Teaching & Learning in Liberal Studies – Karen Pugliesi and Tom Paradis**

- Part of the Liberal Studies Program Strategic Plan (approved by the LSC 5-1-09) addresses the establishment of communities of practice for LS faculty. The committee discussed possible ways to reach out and engage LS faculty.
- The First Year Seminar can be used as a model, as their students are diverse and their faculty work as a community, getting together twice every semester to exchange ideas and share best practices. Those practices are then taken back to departments to enrich the major courses as well.
- The faculty survey results (expected to be available toward the end of this semester) can be used as a conduit to approach faculty, raise awareness of issues that the committee is addressing, and motivate the university community to get involved.
  - Melinda gave a very preliminary report on the faculty survey, indicating that the faculty responses will provide a wealth of information about

concerns and issues that the LS committee will have the opportunity to address. A discussion followed with general agreement to take plenty of time next year to digest and discuss the results of the survey and formulate a plan for addressing the issues that surface.

- Other possible ways of reaching out to the campus community are:
  - ✓ Press releases in ‘Inside NAU’
  - ✓ Announcements from president Haeger at his forums
  - ✓ Liberal studies newsletter

#### **IV. Additional item – Tom Paradis**

- The learning subcommittee is considering putting the liberal studies program through an academic program review, just like other programs, on a predictable cycle to be determined.
- Parking Lot items for discussion at a later date
  - ✓ Survey as catalyst – use survey results to motivate
  - ✓ Send survey results to departments, chairs, colleges
  - ✓ Distribution blocks as group organization
  - ✓ Focus on purpose of LS as a main topic
  - ✓ Focus groups with faculty to deeply understand survey
  - ✓ If survey engaged well, will provide a profound opportunity to excite and involve people - engage students, faculty, staff, administration - open-ended conversation - legislature and stakeholders – publicity from survey – show the campus has a ‘thought’
  - ✓ Challenge the university to use information to work through it
  - ✓ Start with a bang next year
  - ✓ Dr. Haeger – convocations - open-ended discussions – next year’s project - at end, good sense of what NAU is about
  - ✓ Gradually release survey info with press releases in “Inside NAU”
  - ✓ Hold LS steady for a time before thinking about change
  - ✓ Data driven - combine survey with infrastructure data, bottom-up - meantime focus on incremental issues

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM.