

**Liberal Studies Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 23, 2010**

**Approved 9-10-10**

*Present Voting Members:* T.S. Amer, Betty Brown, Irene Matthews, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn (presiding), Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Dennis Tanner, and Jin Wang.

*Present Ex-Officio Members:* Lauren Buck, Don Carter, Todd Firth, Bruce Fox, Greg Glau, Kathryn Kozak, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, Blase Scarnati, and Melinda Treml.

*Excused Voting Members:* John Leung, Todd Welch, and Joseph Wegwert.

*Absent Voting Members:* Doug Brown, Becky Garrison, Chunhye Kim Lee, and Kathleen Templin,

**I. Welcome – Linda Robyn**

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 PM.

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

- The 3-5-10 minutes were approved.
- The 3-26-10 minutes were approved.
- The 4-9-10 minutes were approved.

**III. Review of Survey letter draft – Linda Robyn**

The draft letter was approved by the committee. It will be sent to all faculty, whether they participated in the survey or not.

**IV. Learning Subcommittee projects for the Summer – Melinda Treml**

Melinda presented a list of activities, in order of priority, which the subcommittee plans to work on this summer. The committee approved the list.

**V. Call for Chair and Vice Chair of the committee for AY 2010-11**

- Chair will be Linda Robyn.
- Vice Chair will be Bruce Fox.
- In the fall, we will select someone to represent the LSC on the diversity subcommittee.

**VI. Other**

- There was a discussion about whether LS courses that haven't been taught in some period of time could be put on a hiatus list where they would be removed from the catalog but not the LS program; then fast-tracked back onto the active list at some point in the future. Transferability would need to be taken into consideration.
- There was a discussion about ways to engage students and motivate them to attend class and meet deadlines. Some research shows that raising standards can improve those things. Our provost's policy group is considering a recommendation that attendance be taken in lower division courses.
- There was a discussion about letters in the Lumberjack reflecting students' complaints about growing class sizes. It was suggested that someone in the administration could address that concern in a response letter.
- There was a discussion about the Voluntary System of Accountability, and NAU's participation in it. There is useful information on the NAU home page, through a button on the left called "How NAU Compares."
- Karen Pugliesi reported that last night she attended the Symposium keynote presentation by Anthony Cortese, co-founder of Second Nature, which promotes sustainability in higher education. Dr. Cortese met with our faculty, leaders, and staff and was enthusiastic about the learning outcomes we (the LS program) have embraced. He encouraged us to think about problem-focused learning and curricular designs.
- Don Carter announced the 6<sup>th</sup> annual (SILT) Southwest Institute for Learning and Technology May 17 & 18. More information can be found on the web at [nau.edu/elearning](http://nau.edu/elearning).

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.