



**Liberal Studies Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2010**

Approved 10-22-10

Present Voting Members: Sara Aleman, Patrick Battles, Betty Brown, Mark Cornwall, Bruce Fox, Amalia Garzon (via phone), John Leung, Jim Morgan, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn (presiding), Dean Smith, and Nancy Stackhouse (via phone).

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: Rebecca Campbell, Greg Glau, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, and Blase Scarnati.

Excused Voting Members: Laura Michael-Blocher and Todd Welch.

Absent Voting Members: Chase Hunt and Chunhye Kim Lee.

I. Welcome – Linda Robyn, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:07PM.

II. Acceptance of minutes – Linda

The 9-10-10 minutes were approved.

III. Liberal Studies course proposals – Linda

Linda will divide the full committee into subgroups for purposes of reviewing course proposals. She will select a chair for each of the subgroups and will distribute electronic proposals via email as they are received.

IV. Action agenda for LSC – Karen Pugliesi, Vice Provost

- Karen led a discussion about some possible actions the committee might want to engage in to strengthen course alignment and impact in the liberal studies program. Three main strategies were discussed.
 - A. Depend upon department leaders and faculty to sustain alignment of courses over time,
 - B. Periodic review of all distribution block courses on an ongoing basis, and
 - C. Charge departments to conduct regular assessment-focused reviews, with annual LSC audits.

- A subcommittee was formed to explore these strategies in more depth. Tom Paradis (academic assessment) will head the committee and Rebecca

Campbell and Brent Nelson will participate, starting in November. They will submit a proposal to the full committee.

- Also discussed were recurring topics of: the faculty survey, a periodic LS newsletter, emails to the campus community, organizing learning communities, improving the LS website, creating an LS Institute, embarking on an ad/marketing campaign, and generally tightening up the courses to ensure they meet the learning objectives.
- The committee approved a motion to:
 - A. identify courses not taught for three years or more,
 - B. remove the LS designation and put that course on an 'inactive' list,
 - C. allow the unit to 'reactivate' the course using the same syllabus (a different syllabus would require a new proposal and review),
 - D. after two years on the 'inactive' list, permanently remove the course from the LS program, and
 - E. update the 'inactive' and 'removal' lists yearly.

V. Liberal Studies program review – Bruce Fox, Vice Chair

Bruce has about half the program review task force assembled. That group may meet with the full LSC.

VI. First Year Seminar update – Blase Scarnati

Blase provided a brief update on the program, specifically on the new, experimental large-enrollment FS 199 courses that were granted LS distribution block designations for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. These courses will be regularized for Fall 2011, likely as topics courses based in each distribution block. Blase will return for a more detailed discussion when the course proposals are prepared.

Meeting adjourn at 4:56PM.