



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

**Approved 11-19-10**

Present Voting Members: Patrick Battles, Bruce Fox, John Leung, Laura Michael-Blocher, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn (presiding), Dean Smith, Nancy Stackhouse (via phone), and Todd Welch.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: Rebecca Campbell, Todd Firth, Kathryn Kozak, Michael Merica, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Blase Scarnati, and Melinda Treml.

Excused Voting Members: Sara Aleman, Mark Cornwall, and Amalia Garzon.

Absent Voting Members: Betty Brown, Chase Hunt, Chunhye Kim Lee, and Jim Morgan.

**I. Welcome – Linda Robyn, Chair**

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

**II. Rubrics and syllabi – Linda**

- The committee discussed whether they wanted to be stricter about requiring departments that submit proposals to include the Liberal Studies language in the same paragraph as the course description. *A motion was passed to continue to require the Liberal Studies language in the syllabus, but **not** to require that it be in the course description paragraph.*
- The committee also discussed the nature and complexity of the syllabus template and agreed that it is something they would like for the LS Program Review Task Force to examine.

**III. Approval of minutes – Linda**

The 10-22-10 minutes were approved.

**IV. Update on Program Review Task Force – Vice Chair**

- The task force met yesterday and discussed the approach to the program review. The members will communicate to each of their assigned constituencies, emphasizing that we are conducting a *Review* – not a *Redesign*.
- The chair of the task force believes it more appropriate to subcontract the syllabus review process back to the entire LSC.

**V. Faculty Survey Information – Tom Paradis & Melinda Treml, Academic Assessment**

- For the benefit of the new LSC members, Melinda shared the actual survey that was done last January. She also shared the quantitative data that was collected, as well as her first report, which summarized the general findings of the survey.
- Her next report analyzes the qualitative findings and reveals the cultural patterns and belief systems existing between the faculty members' perceived purpose of a Liberal Education Program and their dissatisfaction with the composition of NAU's Liberal Studies Program.
- Additional reports will be available in the spring exploring the qualitative findings associated with Program Change, Program Rigor and Quality, and Politics, Bureaucracy and Committee Processes.
- The committee discussed this process, the information collected, and what to do with the information collected.

Meeting adjourn at 4:56PM.