



**Liberal Studies Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2010**

**Approved 12-3-10**

*Present Voting Members:* Sara Aleman, Betty Brown, Mark Cornwall, Bruce Fox (presiding), Amalia Garzon (via phone), John Leung, Laura Michael-Blocher (via phone), Jim Morgan, Nancy Stackhouse (via phone), and Todd Welch.

*Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests:* Rebecca Campbell, Don Carter, Todd Firth, Greg Glau, Kathryn Kozak, Michael Merica, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, and Karen Pugliesi.

*Excused Voting Members:* Patrick Battles, Brent Nelson, Linda Robyn, and Dean Smith.

*Absent Voting Members:* Chase Hunt and Chunhye Kim Lee.

**I. Welcome – Bruce Fox, Vice Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 3:37PM.

**II. Approval of minutes – Bruce**

The 11-5-10 minutes were approved.

**III. Update on Program Review – Bruce**

The committee is almost finished developing its communication plan. They will meet again on Monday 11-22-10. They will make sure everyone knows what's happening and are looking for ideas and input. Key findings of the faculty survey will frame their discussions.

**IV. Faculty Survey Information – Tom Paradis, Office of Academic Assessment**

- Tom Paradis provided an overview of Part 3 of the Faculty Survey on Liberal Studies Attitudes and Perceptions, analyzed and written by Melinda Treml. This is a qualitative, content analysis that should help to explain why respondents answered as they did on the quantitative portion of the survey.
- Respondents were grouped into three general categories based on their open-ended responses:
  - Students should be exposed to a broad selection of knowledge and skills, developing "well-rounded" students,
  - Students should acquire specific knowledge and skills to develop "well-educated" students, and

- Students should be able to apply knowledge and skills that are useful and relevant to the student.
- The Committee discussed the findings and asked further questions for potential consideration by the Office of Academic Assessment:
  - Perhaps design an LS program that reconciles the perspectives of all three groups somehow, such as a choice of options in program;
  - What extent was the overlap between the three general categories - does everyone agree, for instance, that we still need "well-rounded" students?
  - For what reasons do respondents perceive general education differently?
  - Are perceptions valid, and can we conduct further quantitative analysis?
- The next parts of the survey analysis will deconstruct the respondent data to look at correlations that will likely answer these and other questions about why people responded as they did.

**V. Course Review Process – Karen Pugliesi, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs**

- Karen expressed the importance of the committee members learning and understanding the course review process so that they can review proposals accurately and in a timely manner.
- We have good rubrics for evaluating distribution block courses. Betty Brown and Laura Michael-Blocher agreed to work on creating a rubric for junior-level writing courses.
- Several aspects of the senior capstone were discussed, including the need for a rubric, and even the consideration of discontinuing the need for LSC approval of the Capstone courses. The Liberal Studies Program Review Task Force will address these matters.

**VI. Other – Karen**

With our high enrollment, we are struggling to provide enough lower division courses. Karen asked the LSC members to encourage their units to expand their capacity where possible, particularly with courses that meet requirements of both US Ethnic Diversity + AHI, and US Ethnic Diversity + Cultural Understanding.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.