

**Liberal Studies Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2009**

Approved 1-30-09

Present Voting Members: T.S. Amer, Doug Brown, Becky Garrison, Bill Grabe, Ryan Holder, Alyssa McKinley, Brent Nelson, Robert Rose (via phone), Vicki Ross, Blase Scarnati (presiding), and Aregai Tecele.

Present Ex-Officio Members and Guests: David Cole, Greg Glau, Don Carter, Marcus Ford, John Hagood, Tom Paradis, Shelly Pleasants, Karen Pugliesi, John Stevenson, and Melinda Treml.

Excused Voting Members: Linda Robyn, Cheryl St. George, and Todd Welch.

Absent Voting Members: Betty Brown and Joseph Wegwert.

I. Welcome, introductions, issues

- Blase Scarnati called the meeting to order at 3:05p.
- He introduced Bill Grabe, who will represent CAL while James Leve is on sabbatical this semester.
- Tom Paradis introduced John Stevenson, who is visiting from the University of Rhode Island this semester. His primary interest is learning about our liberal studies program and our efforts toward assessment. He will be a guest of the office of academic assessment for this semester.
- Tom Paradis will be going to Washington DC week after next to accept, on behalf of NAU, the CHEA award.

II. Acceptance of minutes

The 12-5-08 minutes were approved.

III. UC/USC 299 State of the World

- Marcus Ford and David Cole reported that the pilot course went very well in fall 2008 and requested that they be able to retain the dual liberal studies distribution block designations of Science and Social & Political Worlds for fall 2009. A motion to grant the extension was approved.
- In the meantime, Drs. Ford and Cole are working with the office of academic assessment to compile and analyze data from the pilot to share with the liberal studies committee and to use in future planning and course revision.

IV. Establishing Program baseline

- The office of academic assessment would like to assist the liberal studies committee in our efforts to establish a baseline for the program, from which we can make data-based decisions about what direction we would like to take the program in the future. Several areas of investigation were discussed.
- The assessment subcommittee was established.

V. Discussion of the Liberal Studies Program

- Blase is working on the snapshot alignment with department chairs and college associate deans.
- Karen Pugliesi discussed preliminary data that was compiled by her analyst. Discussion including DFW rates, capacity utilization, and resource management. Karen will discuss further data requests with the assessment subcommittee.
- Student writing skills, and possible actions to address the issue, were also discussed.

VI. Review Subcommittee meetings

Ex-officio members and guests were excused while voting members reviewed a Junior Writing and a Senior Capstone proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55p.