

University Undergraduate Committee Notes of Discussion

October 7, 2020 – 1:00pm-2:30pm, Zoom virtual

Meeting called by: Ambur Lindstrom-Mette, Chair
 Type of meeting: University Undergraduate Committee
 Facilitator: Ambur Lindstrom-Mette
 Note taker: Barbara Branton

Voting members: Ambur Lindstrom-Mette, Zhan (Jen) Xu, Brian Stone, Diana Coleman, Marcie Delmotte, Andrew See, Jin Wang, Lauren Acosta, Melissa Settle, Melissa Schonauer, Therese Myers, Joe Collentine, Lisa Bliss, Christopher Gore, Whitney Stefani,

Non-Voting members: Jeff Berglund, Chris Drake, Samantha Clifford, Steve Palmer, Melinda Treml,

Excused: Sue Pieper, Stephanie Winters,

Guest:

Topic	Discussion
Welcome	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Quorum was present. Members introduced themselves with background and colleges they represent.</p>
Notes of Discussion	<p>B. Stone moved T. Myers seconded and the notes of discussion for September 23, 2020 were approved.</p>
Liberal Studies Task Force (LSTF) update/New program proposal	<p>Director Berglund explained to the committee the background development process for the new general education proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSTF struggled with a name for the program and took a risk with a metaphor around the mountains/summit. The goal is to create a program that is easily explained and communicates to NAU students the importance of the general education requirements in contributing to becoming engaged citizens of the world. Essential knowledge, skills, perspectives or methods were suggested for some of the metaphor descriptors. • Other changes include the review/revision of the distribution blocks into knowledge areas (K/A's) and discovering the blocks had overlapping descriptions that have now been revised. • There is also a change in the category of scientific literacy/doing science (with one lab requirement that may open up to including field work). • The new proposal also brings the Diversity requirement under the general ed program along with adding in a third category, Dimensions of Difference. • The foundations courses in English and Math could change to English and Quantitative Reasoning i.e., literacy about teaching numbers in the 21st century. • ABOR also has some skills that need to be scaffolded across the curriculum in writing with Civil Discourse, Speaking with Civil Discourse, Teamwork with Civil Discourse, Quantitative Reasoning/Data Literacy and Applications to Real-World situations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ethics “E” component needs to be incorporated as well. The recommendation is to model this like the Junior Level Writing, adding it to the degree program expectations, through a course within the discipline or a specific courses with an “E” designation. Already 60% of the programs have an element of ethics within their degree program expectations or maps it through the curriculum map. • A final addition is called the “Habits of Mind” that are integrated throughout the curriculum to include: Curiosity, Intellectual Integrity, Persistence, and Self-Awareness. • Initial comments on the proposal have focused on how it applies to individual degrees/departments/ programs/courses. • Members also discussed descriptors from the metaphor that might be confused with other programs/ departments/outreaches within NAU. • Whether there is a need to change the name of the program from Liberal Studies. How to explain the importance of the program to graduates and how it enhances their employment skills. • Concern that General Education and General Electives need to be clarified/well explained. • Descriptors of the general education program may be as generic as Tier 1, Tier 2, etc. but are not necessarily any better at explaining the elements of the program or create buy-in. • Members do worry about the increased workload of bringing in the “E” requirement through development of new courses, a series of courses or an existing course outside the degree program. <p>The proposal and options for participating in the public discussions is available at: https://in.nau.edu/curriculum-and-assessment/liberal-studies-committee/</p>
<p>Good of the Order (opportunity to bring forward future agenda items)</p>	
<p>Announcements</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>D. Coleman moved, M. Settle seconded and the meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.</p>