

## Amended Liberal Studies Committee Notes of Discussion

February 2 16, 2021, 1:00-2:45 p.m., virtually via zoom

Meeting called by: Jason BeDuhn, Chair

Type of meeting: Liberal Studies Committee

Facilitator: Jason BeDuhn, Chair

Note taker/recorder: Barbara Branton

**Voting members:** Jason BeDuhn, Bruce Fox, Susan Smiley, Amy Hughes, Alison Conant, C. Christina, Toby Hocking, Jermaine Martinez, Louise Lockard, James Latham, Vince Caranchini, John Doherty, Kristen Konkel, Shelley Vaughn, Jeannie Copley, Will Cordeiro, Neal Smith

**Ex-Officio members:** Jeff Berglund, Melinda Treml, Monica Bai, Sue Pieper, Amy Rushall, Betsy Buford, Kim Hensley-Owens, Alana Kuhlman,

**Excused voting:**

**Excused ex-officio:** Cody Canning,

### **Agenda and notes of discussion**

Topic	Discussion
<b>Welcome/Notes of Discussion</b>	Call to Order: <i>Note, today's meeting was recorded and transcribed by Zoom.</i> J. Latham moved, B. Fox seconded, and the Notes of Discussion for February 2, 2021 meeting passed unanimously.
<b>Consent Agenda/Course review update</b>	On the consent agenda were: FOR 360W, TSM 303W and AST 496C. Members asked that TSM 303W be removed for further discussion and ultimately requested the syllabus be returned for additional clarification. Members approved FOR 360W and AST 496C. Update on courses in the review process: Two courses were removed by the department and additional revisions were recommended for a third course. A new JLW syllabus was received this week and will be distributed to a subcommittee if it meets the minimum requirements for a JLW course.
<b>Process for Final proposal review</b>	The leadership for the LSC, DCC and UUC met and developed a process calendar timeline so interested constituents and committees can review and comment on the latest draft of the Liberal Studies (General Studies) Proposal before it is brought forward for approval by the three committees, followed by the Faculty Senate. Two public forums, hosted by the Faculty Senate were added to the schedule and members are encouraged to attend if their schedules allow. Input from the forums will be synthesized into the final proposal and the three committees will have another review opportunity. Following that, a joint meeting of the three committees will be scheduled, and while each committee will vote independently, all will hear the same final conversations and do any additional editing together. Upon formal approval, the final proposal will move to the Faculty Senate for the first reading. Assuming there are no major rewrites, the process calendar has a formal approval by the Senate at its last meeting in April. If there are major changes, a request will be made for partial approval so the process can move forward.

		Members suggested that a cover with recommendations accompany the proposal to the Faculty Senate. This was used for the successful approval of the Degree Program Expectations several years ago. Members voiced concerns about course census and a worry across campus about lost courses and how that will affect faculty hires within the colleges. The vision is that more faculty will be involved in the revised program, even as some of the existing courses are moved from one distribution block to a new knowledge area.
Liberal Studies draft revisions		<p>Members started their review with a conversation centered on a proposal from Global Languages &amp; Cultures (GLC). As all the language courses are currently in the Cultural Understanding distribution block, and that block is eliminated in the proposal, they must move to new knowledge areas (KAs). It was agreed that specific calling out of "Languages" in a KA name is not helpful, especially because it forecloses possible placement of second language courses in other KAs where they might be better suited. GLC has identified a link to Social and Political Worlds (SPW) and there should be room within that KA as some of the existing SPW courses will move into the new Social Sciences area of the Sciences KA. Some GLC courses may also migrate to the Arts and Humanities KA. GLC mentioned the existing student outcomes and shared the national standards established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Concerns were expressed about whether the 1-200 level language students could perform at a sufficient level to discuss culture, ethnic traditions, etc. in the studied language. A cursory review of the 1-200 level course textbooks suggests they cover multi ethnic traditions, culture, and social lifeways elements. A comparison was made to Geography courses which are already in SPW. Culture can be part of a holistic study of the humanities, too. A recommendation was made to clarify CU elimination with the stated expectation that courses currently in that distribution block will move into new KAs in the the introductory section of the proposal. No courses are being intentionally excluded from the proposed program. Suggestions were made to add a reference to "language" in the SPW definition, and/or to add a reference to "culture" to the AH definition, but neither suggestion was acted upon.</p> <p>Members moved their conversation to a letter of support from the Commission for Native Americans and a desire to have 12 credits of diversity designated classes. If that was too aspirational, then the recommendation was for 9 credits with 3 of those credits being focused in Indigenous Peoples and the other 6 credits from the three remaining categories. This would align with NAU's strategic plan and its physical location on Indigenous Peoples lands. It was noted that other Commissions have expressed views and were not excluded from the process. When making a decision, the committee should also be mindful that not all the students attend on the Mountain Campus.</p> <p>B. Fox moved, S. Smiley seconded and members unanimously support Option 2:</p> <p>Students select 3 of 4 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- U.S. Ethnic</li> <li>- Global</li> <li>- Dimensions of Differences and Identities</li> <li>- Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>

<b>Announcements</b>		Remember the two forums 2/24 and 2/26 hosted by Faculty Senate.
<b>Good of the Order (your opportunity for future agenda items)</b>		
<b>Adjourn</b>		The meeting was adjourned at 2:47pm. The next meeting will be March 2.