

Liberal Studies Committee Notes of Discussion

September 14, 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, C. Christina, Toby Hocking, James Latham, Alison Conant, Shelley Vaughn, Jeannie Copley, Allie Stender, Amy Hughes, Mary DeJong, Anne Medill, Jesse Egert, Robert Wallace, Theresa Bierer, Christopher Doughty, Louise Lockard

**Ex-Officio members:** Jeff Berglund, Melinda Tremel, Amy Rushall, Betsy Buford, Alana Kuhlman, Cody Canning, Jenny Scott

**Excused voting:**

Excused ex-officio: Meredith Heller excused for fall, Kim Hensley-Owens

Topic	Discussion
<b>Welcome/Notes of Discussion</b>	Call to Order:  Members introduced themselves to each other over Zoom.  J. Latham moved, B. Fox seconded and the Notes of Discussion for August 31, 2021, meeting passed unanimously.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	There were no items for a consent agenda.
<b>Further revisions to the proposed bylaws</b>	Building on the suggested bylaw revisions from the previous meeting, the committee discussed the addition of a math foundations representative and an associate dean as ex-officio members, and how best to coordinate the work with the Diversity Curriculum committee to minimize the back and forth of syllabus revisions. Even though the DCC is now part of the general studies program, it will have autonomy for approving syllabi seeking a diversity perspective designation; however, all syllabi must have an embedded knowledge area and will need general studies approval too.  Members indicated their colleges are presently holding fall elections. As the Faculty Senate constitution is also being revised, that could delay an approval on any submitted bylaw changes. How to explain the concurrent running of the Liberal Studies program to conclusion and the implementation of the General Studies program was also discussed. Appropriate language will be crafted on this with a suggested placement within the bylaws. Members will be able to approve this at a future meeting. At least one college name still needs to be revised.

## Overview of Coming Year

Slides were shared showing results of the course census, anticipated transitions, and shortfalls. American Institutions and the new Diversity Perspectives in Indigenous Peoples and Intersectional Identities need to build capacity as well as Scientific Literacy. Some capacity may shift within US Global or US Ethnic if faculty wish to align their course(s) with one of the new diversity perspectives. This information was shared with the Faculty Senate executive committee and will be part of the September 27 full senate meeting. Part of the discussion was how to encourage proposal submissions for the new general studies program, types of resources and tools to assist faculty with the development of syllabi for the new program, and advocating for recognition when faculty teach liberal/general studies courses. Degree programs will also be reviewed to minimize impacts to students when courses change knowledge areas. Close attention will be paid to changes that affect student progression, impact advising and/or transfer articulation.

Adding attributes to existing courses and doing a pivot when the program is implemented will reduce repeated changes to PeopleSoft. A soft launch beginning in Fall '22 would be transparent to the students but could provide data for ABOR on how many students are enrolled in the general studies courses, especially, American Institutions. In Fall '24, first time freshman will be enrolled in the new general studies program. Students currently enrolled will participate in more robust courses designed to meet the new general studies requirements but will be enrolled under the current liberal studies program requirements.

Members learned about the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinating committee workgroups with the following foci and organized to assist with the development of courses to meet the new general studies program requirements.

- Diversity Perspectives will work to connect course design and expertise and encourage new course submissions for Intersectional Identities and Indigenous Peoples.
- Liberal Studies will review the courses submitted for review; taking action on courses outlined in the spring census first and seeking submissions in American Institutions.
- Resource/Metrics work group will focus on methods to convert sections/seats, seek to establish credit/recognition for the providing units (credit is only counted when it is taught for a major), exploring use of graders, graduate students, and cluster hires.
- Transfer Impacts & Articulation will work with the ACETS, admissions, updating transfer rules, applicable policy reviews and on communication with community colleges.
- American Institutions work group will focus on what is required within this ABOR requirement, how to develop courses to satisfy this requirement, and support the units making proposals. There will be a priority push for courses that meet this requirement as present capacity is low. NAU's interpretation and implementation for this requirement may exceed the goal of Policy 22-10. It will be important to encourage faculty to creatively meet the requirements and that developer and/or reviewers not impose criteria outside of the approved definition and General Studies Committee interpretation.
- DCC/LSC coordination has committee leadership meeting regularly to discuss what is or isn't working on the reviews and how to streamline the processes.
- Communication planning will support messaging to the units/colleges, on down through the chairs. Perspectives from marketing and advising need to be included in the communications and weaving some of Boundless messaging into the communications was suggested.
- The technical work group will focus on the changes and their impacts to PeopleSoft.

The mid-October transition may provide an opportunity to approach faculty and see if they would be willing to incorporate a diversity perspective into an existing course. This process should address ±243 courses. There is an ongoing concern about

		<p>transitioning courses into the new program without a thorough review. Some courses have not been reviewed since they were developed many years ago; but, catching them during the program review or mid year review cycles will ultimately bring all back into alignment. This realignment during program review started in approximately AY 2019-20. Members should expect to see a document in October that will be the basis for the large transition consent agenda to begin the move of like distribution block to a like knowledge area. Members concurred this is an expedient and rational way to approach the transition process.</p> <p>The committee leadership for the Liberal Studies committee and the Diversity Curriculum committee will explore ways to minimize the back-and-forth review and revising of proposals and bring a proposal to their respective committees for approval. This process will affect ±257 courses. For these courses the executive leadership will do a preliminary review to ensure the syllabi are ready for subcommittee review/approvals.</p> <p>In a review of the approved General Studies proposal, it was noted that critical thinking elements were not incorporated into the American Institutions requirement. Members reviewed a chart that attempted to mirror the critical thinking elements of the other knowledge areas and concurred the intent was properly conveyed. However, one could word smith using Bloom's Taxonomy to eliminate repetition of the levels of complexity, e.g., examine, analyze. Members asked that treaties/land acknowledgements be included with the American Institutions curriculum/teaching.</p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>		
<p><b>Good of the Order (your opportunity for future agenda items)</b></p>		
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>		<p>Meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm. The next meeting will be in September 28.</p>