**Liberal Education Committee**

**24 September 2015**

**312 Rarick Hall**

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.** by Chairperson Rackaway, who recognized a quorum was present.

**Present:** Dr. Chapman Rackaway (Chair), Ms. Jessica Heronemus, Dr. Carol Patrick, Ms. Robyn Hartman, Mr. Kenton Russell, Dr. Kenny Rigler, Dr. Bill Weber, Dr. Teresa Woods. **Absent:** Dr. Tim Crowley, Ms. April Terry, Dr. Tom Schafer, Dr. Jeff Burnett, Dr. Brad Will, Mr. Cody Scheck, Mr. Ben Cline.

**New member:** Chairperson Rackaway announced that Dr. Shala Mills is joining the committee.

**Communication:** Chairperson Rackaway announced the setting up of a Dropbox folder as a document sharing repository, as well as the Google docs, a Blog and a Facebook page for future public communication. He asked that all committee members send him the e-mail addresses they want for each interface.

**Agenda Item 3, Minutes:** Minutes from September 18th meeting were reviewed. Mr. Russell moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Heronemus, and the motion passed.

**Agenda Item 4, Old Business:** None.

**Agenda Item 5, Draft of Liberal Education Review Plan:** Chairperson Rackaway led the discussion to review the plan. He noted that due to our responsibilities of transparency to stakeholders, we need to decide on the plan very soon so it can be made public. Departments that are undergoing accreditation reviews need to be able to align with any changes. Further discussion included:

* Clarification that the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) is advocating a move toward Liberal Education, and has developed VALUE rubrics that may prove helpful to us.
* What is the difference between General Education and Liberal Education?
	+ Liberal Education is broader, and includes General Education. General Education includes the courses (like University 101, Foundation Studies) that students must take that introduce them to higher education. Liberal Education courses are more disciplinary focused – students would have choices of taking courses from a variety of disciplines. These Liberal Education courses would address the different areas of Liberal Education Alignment and interdisciplinarity would occur through addressing the DQP learner outcomes (e.g., Civic and Global Learning, Broad and Integrative Knowledge, Applied and Collaborative Learning, Intellectual Skills, Specialized Knowledge) in individual courses and mapping them across the university. Focus is on developing skills rather than taking certain classes.
	+ Learner Outcomes in *each class* would include some aspect (to a greater or lesser degree) of all the DQP areas (e.g., Specialized Knowledge, Civic and Global Learning, etc.)
* What about the word “Liberal” for our stakeholders? Although “liberal” comes from “liberal arts” and has definite meanings for academia, would this be a problem due to its more colloquial usage?

Chairperson Rackaway led a specific look at the draft plan and asked for edits.

* Does the timeline need to be moved up in its final stages? How long does approval from the necessary bodies take?
	+ Chairperson Rackaway has been advised that because this would constitute a change in an existing program rather than creating a new program, Regents approval would not be required. Approval bodies would be:
		- Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate
		- Faculty Senate
		- Provost
	+ Departments would need information as soon as possible as they review course offerings.
* Other elements of the draft were discussed, with the following suggestions to be added:
	+ A rationale, explaining the term Liberal Education, and why the change is being recommended. Suggested text: “… to maintain the quality of traditional Liberal Arts education while also developing twenty-first century skills in students consistent with the skills needed in the workplace.”
	+ Studies were discussed demonstrating that employers seek skills in new hires that a liberal education supports. Mr. Russell agreed to gather sources of such studies that could be cited for our next meeting. Other members agreed to send him citations.
	+ It is important that by the end of the next meeting, a document with a plan be ready to share with the community. Come to the next meeting with specific ideas and timelines.
	+ Dr. Rigler agreed to work on the graphics of the document.

Next meeting:

* + **Tuesday, September 29, 3:00 p.m., in the Library, room TBA**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Teresa M. Woods, Secretary.