

Report to the Faculty Senate
From the Liberal Studies Coordinating and Policy Committee (LSCPC)
Academic Year 2020-2021

Membership

James Fadool, Arts and Sciences, Chair
Beth Boatright, University Libraries
Robin Goodman, Arts and Sciences
Don Latham, Communication and Information
Lisa Lyons, Arts and Sciences
Piers Rawling, Arts and Sciences
Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Engineering
Michelle Therrien, Social Sciences & Public Policy
Lisa Tripp, Motion Picture Arts

Ex officio

Joe O'Shea – Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Lynn Hogan – Director of Liberal Studies, Dean of Undergraduate Studies designee
Leslie Richardson – Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Vice President for Academic Affairs designee

Guest Participant

Kestrel Charlton – Office of Liberal Studies

The role of the Liberal Studies Coordinating and Policy Committee is to promote liberal education and provide oversight for the liberal studies curriculum and University-wide undergraduate requirements. The LSCPC also develops and oversees course approval criteria and processes, as well as the development of policies and processes related to assessment of student learning and outcomes.

The committee met six times during the academic year. Several policy items were discussed, and one item was approved by the Faculty Senate in January 2021.

The LSCPC presented a proposal to change the University-wide graduation requirement for Computer Competency Requirement (CCR) to a newly revised and updated Digital Literacy Requirement. The LSCPC was of the opinion that the CCR had been very successful in achieving the initial goals. Furthermore, the data showed that the CCR for most students had evolved into a major or discipline-specific technology requirement, outpacing the minimal requirements established for a course to meet CCR approval. After presentation at the FS meeting in March 2020, it was decided that in Fall 2020, an ad hoc committee will be formed to evaluate and make recommendations of potential changes to the CCR that better meet today's and future needs and challenges. The new Digital Literacy Requirement (DigLit) was developed

by the LSCPC with input from a subcommittee that included additional members of the faculty. The Digital Literacy Requirement was approved by the Faculty Senate at the January 2021 meeting. The DigLit requirement will be implemented with the incoming class of Fall 2023. The additional time prior to implementation will allow expedited review of courses that currently meet the CCR that wish to meet the new DigLit requirement. The LSCPC will coordinate with the Liberal Studies office during the implementation phase and course approval process.

For 2 years, the LSCPC has been engaged with the Liberal Studies office in the development of a survey to measure student learning outcomes in General Education courses, which are overseen by the LS office and LSCPC. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) require assessment of the General Education courses. The overall goal is to track how well the general education program contributes to the development of students and provide feedback to departments based upon an assessment and reporting by faculty of students meeting Learning Objectives. The General Education assessment was reorganized based upon Learning Objectives and Proficiencies. This re-organization allows assessment of each Learning Objective and Proficiency to be distributed across departments meeting the criterion rather than simply by subject material. The initial roll-out of a pilot study was for courses taught in Fall 2020 and data collected into Spring 2021. The initial roll-out was met with a 92% reporting rate by the faculty. The assessment process will be shared between LS and the Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment, but LSCPC is intent on working with the Administration on the collection process and the use of the data.

The LS office presented data collected by Kestrel Charlton regarding the course approval process, communication with the faculties and the timeline for each step. The goal was to review the process and inquire if points in the process could be streamlined or made more efficient. The LSCPC shared the data with Liz Jakubowski of the UCC and the Registrar's office, and offered support if changes are made moving forward. This summer, the Registrar's office will be realigning some duties to improve response time to curricular requests.

Lastly, the LSCPC wants to acknowledge the many members of the Liberal Studies Course Review Panel for the reviews and constructive feedback they provide to instructors on course development and design. Kestrel Charlton of the LS office has done an excellent job recruiting new reviewers and updating training for new reviewers. We are grateful for their continued service.

Respectfully submitted for the LSCPC,
James M. Fadool