

Report to the Faculty Senate
From the Liberal Studies Coordinating and Policy Committee (LSCPC)
Academic Year 2022-2023

Membership

James Fadool, Arts and Sciences, Chair

Alex Kercheval, Arts and Sciences
Robin Goodman, Arts and Sciences
Don Latham, Communication and Information
Lisa Lyons, Arts and Sciences
James Palmer, Arts and Sciences
Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Engineering
Michelle Therrien, Social Sciences & Public Policy
Lisa Tripp, Motion Picture Arts (UPC)

Ex officio

Joe O'Shea – Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Lynn Hogan – Director of Liberal Studies, Dean of Undergraduate Studies designee
Leslie Richardson – 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 outcomes.

Since our last report May 2022, the committee met six times during the academic year. Additionally, members have represented the LSCPC on several committees including the Interdisciplinary Studies Working Group, Course Approval Committee, and the Internship Council.

The major effort for the LSCPC has been building a sustainable and data-driven process for assessment of General Education Courses outcomes. This is a multi-year effort in concert with the Liberal Studies office and the Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) now requires a data driven process for assessment of the General Education courses and the development of an improvement plan for meeting student learning objectives.

Our goal has been to develop a data-driven process that not only meets or exceeds the SACSCOC requirements but provides an opportunity for instructors and units to have input on the process, the Learning Objectives of General Education Courses, and encourage faculty to develop and share innovative approaches to meeting their teaching goals. From the beginning, the process set out to

maintain faculties' and instructors' freedom to craft their own tools for measuring student learning outcomes in their courses, provides an opportunity for instructor input on all phases of the process, and the sharing of the data with the instructors and units creates a system focused on improving student learning rather than the assessment process. This year marked the completion of the first 3-year cycle:

- Fall 2020 marked the initial roll-out of the newly developed process to a subset of courses taught in the Fall and data collection in the Spring
- Fall 2021, marked the first full round of collection of data from all instructors for selected areas taught in Fall 2021.
- Fall 2022, marked the second full round of data collection, and the analysis of the full data-set collected and input from instructors for courses offered in Fall 2021.

Major outcomes: The LSCPC found that the instructors and units were much more engaged in the assessment process with 100% reporting from the units. The instructors themselves identified mechanisms to improve tools used for the assessment of the learning objectives in their courses which in turn will make the data more informative for them to meet their instructional goals. The LSCPC committee identified recommendations from the units that will be shared with other units that teaching courses that meet the same Learning Objectives; recommendations that can be shared with all those teaching Gen Ed courses; and recommendations that the LS office may use to help instructors developing courses and improve the course approval process.

Lastly, each year, the LSCPC wants to acknowledge the many members of the Liberal Studies Course Review Panel for their reviews and the constructive feedback 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