



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024
3:05 P.M.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

T. Adams, P. Aluffi, J. Ang, M. Augustyn, S. Ballas, A. Barbu, H. Bass, W. Berry, D. Bish, M. Bourassa, A. Boutin, E. Brookshire Madden, J. Broome, D. Broxterman, M. Buchler, M. Bukoski, J. Calhoun, E. Chicken, I. Chiorescu, E. Coggeshall, E. Coleman, L. DeBrunner, M. Duncan, D. Eccles, N. Ennis, N. Everhart, J. Fiorito, V. Fleury, M. Fuentes, G. Gerard, M. Goldmark, R. Goodman, T. Graban, J. Guan, A. Gunjan, W. Hanley, E. Hilinski, R. Hughes, K. Jones, K. Killian, M. Killian, E. Kim, P. Kumar, T. Ledermann, L. Lee, K. Lee, A. Lemmon, A. McKenna, Y. McLane, V. Mesev, S. Metcalfe, S. Miller, C. Moore, C. Owens, C. Parker-Flynn, E. Peters, M. Porter, J. Proffitt, Q. Rao, P. Renfro, R. Roberts, E. Ryan, Q. Sang, S. Sansom, C. Schmertmann, D. Smith, T. Somasundaram, G. Stanwood, M. Swanbrow Becker, M. Therrien, A. Thomas, R. Tomko, K. Ueno, A. Volya, G. Wang, S. Wasman, M. Zhang.

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

G. Adams, D. Armstrong, C. Ann Baade, E. Bangi, M. Bosworth, E. Cecil (S. Hazard), J. Chanton, A. Dewan, K. Gallivan, A. Gilzene, F.M. Gloth, P. Hoeflich, S. Johnson, A. Khurshid, W. Li, T. Liu, P. Maurette, J. McNulty, K. Ogle, J. Ohlin, G. Ostrander, N. D. Pifer, I. Quinn, T. Rhynard, N. Rogers, J. Standley, O. Steinbock, Y. Tang, G. Tyson, S. Zane (K. Davidson), Y. Zhou.

I. Call to order

II. Approval of the minutes, November 15, 2023, meeting
The minutes were approved.

III. Approval of the agenda, January 17, 2024, meeting
The agenda was approved.

IV. Report of the Steering Committee – Roxanne Hughes

- Roxanne Hughes thanked the Faculty Senate for feedback on the resolutions related to the Board of Governors regulation 8.005 and 9.016.
- Still awaiting announcement from the Board of Governors on regulation 8.005 which updates the approved social science courses for general studies at all state universities.
- Still awaiting announcement from the Board of Governors on regulation 9.016 which prescribes expenditure of state funding on activities that engage in controversial societal issues such as diversity, equity, and inclusion. This regulation will also provide definitions for diversity, equity, inclusion, political or social activism, and social issues.
- Florida State University will be hosting the BOG meeting on January 24, 2024, in Tallahassee at the Student Union Building.
- Recently heard from faculty that international students are being asked to pay a \$180 fee for the certification of their application along with the regular application fees. Began discussions with the

GPC and the Graduate School to discuss this change, how it may be affecting applications, and how to help reduce the staff workload.

- Presented the winners of the Torch Awards 2023. In the Vires category the winners were Benjamin Crump and Charles Nam. In the Artes category the winners were Les Akers, Ruth Akers, and Robert Howard.
- The floor was opened for questions. None are posed.

V. **Announcements of the President of the University**

- President McCullough gave remarks about plans moving into the new year.
- The legislative session has begun. The University is asking for recurring funds for two main focuses. One focus is hiring additional prominent research faculty and building upon the talent of the university and graduate students. Another focus is to continue developing the FSU Health Initiative for operations and research infrastructure.
- Continuing FSU's building programs including a new FAMUFSU College of Engineering as well as projects to renovate Dittmer and Kellogg. Also asking for funding for a new state-of-the-art facility for Nursing.
- In November FSU was awarded with \$98.4 million to support a new aerospace advanced manufacturing project in Northwest Florida.
- Closed books on last year at \$414 million. Congratulated faculty for bringing in more research dollars.
- Working on contractual arrangements with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.
- Continue to hire high profile senior faculty members, including National Academy of Engineering member Longya Xu.
- The search for the new Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratories is going well and an offer has been extended to a highly regarded person.
- Many events had passed including a celebration for the Chief MagLab Scientist Laura Green and the reopening of the new FSU Civil Rights Institute which the university recently hired a new director for, Ted Ellis.
- Early action decisions came out in January where 8400 students were admitted from 635 high schools across all the Florida counties. The academic profile included an average GPA of 4.4, 1410 SAT average, 31 ACT average with 88% of admitted students being top 10% of their high school and 22% of admitted students being first generation.
- The floor was opened for questions.
- **Kathryn Jones, Arts and Sciences** – asked how the number of first-generation college students compares to previous years.
 - **President McCullough** – responded that the overall University is at 26% first-generation, but that the 22% is just for early decision.
 - **Provost Clark** – adds that having at least a population of 25% first generation students is something the University is focused on continuing.
- No more questions posed.

VI. **Reports of special committees**

No reports of special committees.

VII. **Reports of standing committees**

- a. Liberal Studies, Coordinating and Policy Committee – Jim Fadool (addendum 1)
 - James Fadool spoke about a two-part proposal from the Liberal Studies, Coordinating and Policy Committee.
 - The first part of the proposal included rebranding liberal studies. The liberal studies office wants to shed the Liberal studies for the 21st century and become “CoreFSU.”
 - No new requirements, major changes, or changes in student expectations.
 - The rebranding aims to engage with the importance of Liberal Studies for the university.

- The floor was opened for discussion. No discussion was had.
- A poll was conducted. **The proposal passed.**
- The second part of the proposal is to rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”
 - James Fadool continued that it is to continue the requirement for undergraduate students to complete two approved diversity courses as part of their FSU Liberal Studies requirements but rebranding the diversity requirement to “Perspectives and Awareness requirement.”
 - He noted that this has gone through a few name changes in the past.
 - The learning objectives of the requirement are to 1) analyze some aspect of human experience within a culture, focusing on at least on source of diversity, and 2) explore one’s own cultural norms or values in relation to those of a different cultural group.
 - The learning objectives would not change nor would course approval.
 - The floor was opened for discussion.
 - **Will Hanley, Arts and Sciences** – expressed concern that the “Perspectives and Awareness requirement,” does not provide a clear objective to students the way that the name “Diversity requirement,” does. Questioned what the advantages are for changing it to this name. In the context of attacks on DEI, wondered if changing the name of this requirement gives weight to those attacks.
 - **James Fadool** – responded that the liberal studies committee found that the diversity requirement does not reflect the goals of the requirement and that the name may mean one thing to some people and other things to other people. It is a matter of broadening the concepts rather than just having it be diversity.
 - **Will Hanley, Arts and Sciences** – still questioned why the change is needed.
 - **James Fadool** – answered the reason it was brought to them was trying to refine or rebrand different components. The idea is to broaden the concepts rather than just have it be about diversity. He also noted this is not a new discussion, it has been discussed for 5 or 6 years.
 - **Paul Renfro, Arts and Sciences** – questioned why this change is necessary right now and in the face of attacks on DEI.
 - **James Fadool** – responded that the current context of attacks on DEI was not the reason for the proposed change. The committee found it best to bring it to the Faculty Senate sooner rather than later. He noted this is constantly evolving and looking at it from different points of views, and better reflect what the goals are.
 - **Tarez Graban, Arts and Sciences** – troubled that the committee seems to have a problem with the word diversity. Wondered what harm there would be in changing it to “Diversity, Perspectives and Awareness,” and questioned whether the committee is looking at diversity as an intellectual process.
 - **James Fadool** – responded in appreciation to the suggestion.
 - **Kathryn Jones, Arts and Sciences** – questioned if there is any evidence that the term diversity is producing a knee jerk reaction in students or if it makes them less receptive or curious.
 - **James Fadool** – answered that there is no specific data about how the students at FSU perceive the word.
 - **Erin Ryan, Law** – expressed that if the rationale behind the change of the requirement name is the perception of students that it would be important to collect the data previously mentioned before acting on it.
 - **James Fadool** – thanked everyone for their discussion on the topic.

VIII. Unfinished business

No unfinished business.

IX. **New Business**

- **Amiee Boutin, Arts and Sciences** – announced that the Arts and Sciences Policy Committee met with several faculty and found that one issue being raised is AI and the need for more guidance about AI. The committee will be discussing this with CAT and other stakeholders.
 - **Bridget Birmingham** – responded that she would be happy to reach out about forming a committee.
- No other new business posed.

X. **Special orders**

No special orders.

XI. **University welfare – Jennifer Proffitt, United Faculty of Florida**

- Jennifer Proffitt spoke about the new legislature, offered that they currently are not seeing anything that directly targets faculty or higher education.
- The UFF still has several lawsuits pending against SB-256 and 266.
- Post-tenure review negotiations are still being continued, both teams have agreed to some language but there are still some differences that they need to hear from faculty about. The bargaining team sent an email out asking for feedback.
- The UFF needs about 80 new members by January 24 to meet the 60% membership required by the legislature.
- The floor was opened for questions.
 - **Kathryn Jones, Arts and Sciences** – questioned if they do not meet the 60% membership requirement how it would affect the bargaining on post tenure review.
 - **Robin Goodman, Arts and Sciences** – responded that they do not know how it will affect bargaining.
- No more questions were posed.
- No other university welfare posed.

XII. **Announcements of deans and other administrative officers**

- **Janet Kistner, Vice President of Faculty Development and Advancement** – alerted the Faculty Senate that they would be doing the COACHE faculty satisfaction survey that is done every three years. Important to get feedback through this survey and understand concerns from Faculty. The survey will be released in early February.

The Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

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**NEXT FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024, 3:05PM**

2/28/2024 | 11:18 AM EST

Bridgett Birmingham

Faculty Senate President

Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”

Liberal Studies Coordination and Policy Committee
Jan 17, 2024

Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”

Liberal Studies for the 21st Century was adopted in 2015.

LSCPC has discussed rebranding of Liberal Studies for several years.

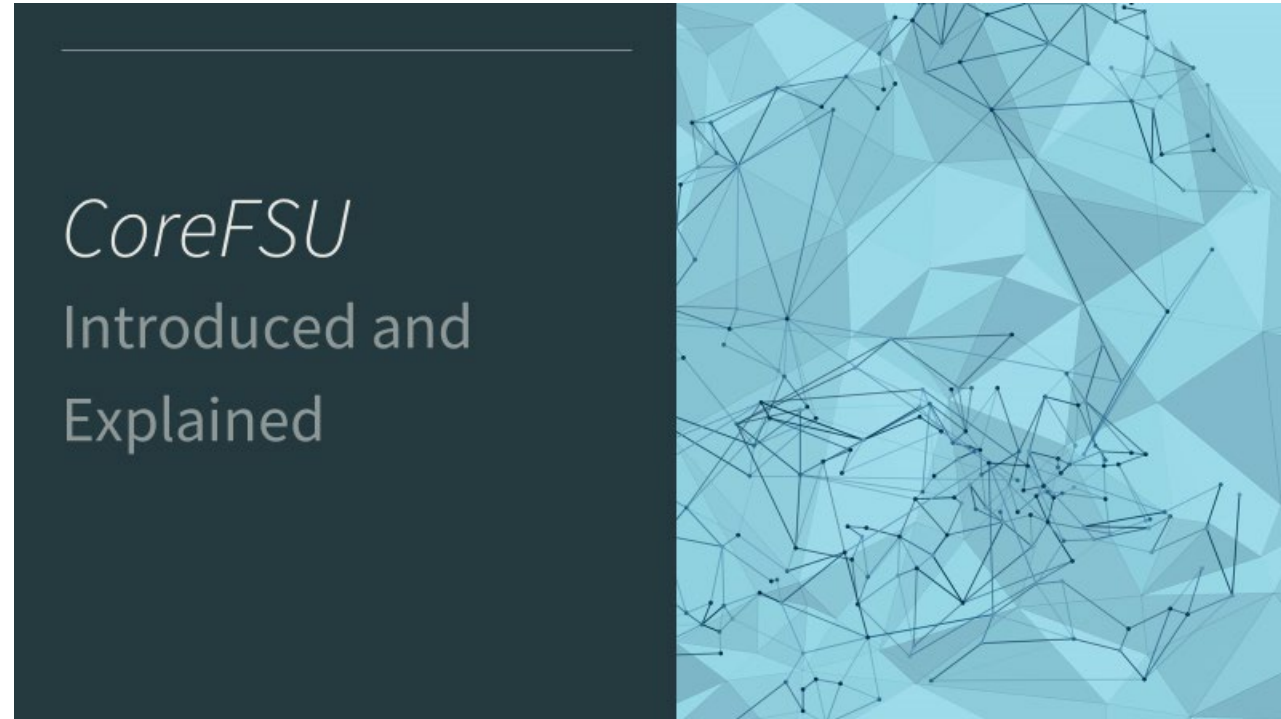
CoreFSU was suggested by the Liberal Studies Office and Undergraduate Studies.

Nov 2023 meeting of LSCPC, unanimously approved proposal.

Two Components for consideration today:

- 1. Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”**
- 2. For Discussion: Rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”**

1. Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”



1. Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”

THERE ARE NO NEW REQUIREMENTS OR MAJOR CHANGES ON THE PART OF FSU!!!!

- Concern about the perceived relevance of liberal studies in FSU’s undergraduate experience
- Counter the messaging of expediency
- The famous 3 ‘ fer courses
- “Just get through liberal studies”
- Want to reinforce understanding of the role liberal studies plays in the FSU undergraduate education
 - faculty, staff, and students
- Want to help students explain the value of liberal studies to employers and/or graduate students
- Wanted a more appealing moniker – something you can “hang your hat on”

1. Proposed Rebranding of Liberal Studies to “CoreFSU”

THERE ARE NO NEW REQUIREMENTS OR MAJOR CHANGES ON THE PART OF FSU!!!!

- Provide a new way to talk about liberal studies at FSU
- Increase relevance of liberal studies in the minds of students, faculty, staff and parents
- Remind everyone that liberal studies runs through the FSU undergraduate experience
- Create a framework to assist students in understanding what they gain
- Employ language that helps students articulate what they learned and experienced in liberal studies
- Remind students they are active agents in shaping their liberal studies experience
- Give FSU a marketing tool

Discussion: Rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”

Continue to require undergraduate students to complete two approved diversity courses as part of their Florida State University Liberal Studies requirements, but rebrand the requirement to the **Perspectives and Awareness Requirement**

History:

The FSU *Multicultural Requirement* was established in 1992.

In 2015, the moniker, *Diversity*, was adopted with approval of the Liberal Studies for the 21st Century requirements.

In 2022, the *X- Cross-Cultural Studies*, and *Y- Diversity in Western Experience* designations were removed to better meet requests by faculty members for new course development and to provide students with more choices in meeting the requirement.

Discussion : Rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”

Current Requirement: Students must complete two Diversity courses. Both Diversity courses must be completed with a grade of "C–" or higher.*

*Students who have completed an AA degree from an articulated institution (including those who have completed a high school AA degree from an articulated institution) and transfer students who enter the University with sixty or more credit hours are only required to complete one Diversity course.

Learning Objectives:

1. Analyze some aspect of human experience within a culture, focusing on at least one source of diversity (e.g., age, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class, or other).
2. Explore one’s own cultural norms or values in relation to those of a different cultural group.

Discussion : Rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”

Proposed Requirement: Student will complete two approved Perspectives and Awareness courses. Both Perspectives and Awareness courses must be completed with a grade of "C–" or higher.*

*Students who have completed an AA degree from an articulated institution (including those who have completed a high school AA degree from an articulated institution) and transfer students who enter the University with sixty or more credit hours are only required to complete one Perspectives and Awareness course.

The learning objectives and the course approval process will not change.

Discussion : Rename the Liberal Studies “Diversity Requirement” to “Perspectives and Awareness Requirement.”

Rationale:

Changes in the nature of diversity education and student understanding.

As the conversations around diversity and multiculturalism have evolved, student experiences and expectations have transformed as well.

The new title better encompasses the broader goals of the learning objectives which are to examine perspectives, enhance self-awareness, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Effective Date, Implementation Implications, and Strategy:

The proposed change would become official beginning Fall 2024.