Academic Chairs Council Agenda
1:00-3:00pm Wednesday, 11 January 2012
University Union Havasupai A/B

1. 1:00 to 1:15: Announcements / Updates
   - ACC Bylaws under review by President and attorneys
   - Faculty Evaluation & Student Success Committee: need reps from CEFNS, CAL, FCB & HHS
   - Updates from Provost’s Academic Leadership Council

2. 1:15 to 1:45: Discussion of Liberal Studies: new double dipping policy (see next page): Karen Pugliesi

3. 1:45 to 2:15: Discussion with Provost Grobsmith
   - Review of new draft (final?) of Emergency Closure Final Exam policy (to be distributed electronically in advance of meeting)

4. 2:15 to 2:45: Discussion of Executive Director term (Maribeth Watwood)

Upcoming dates:
- ACC Exec meeting: Wednesday, 25 January, 1-2pm, Adel Math 109 (conference room)
- ACC meeting: Wednesday, 8 February, 1-3pm (University Union, Havasupai A/B)
The Liberal Studies Committee voted unanimously in its October 21, 2011 meeting to change the following policy on the prohibition of students taking courses with the prefix of their home major to meet Liberal Studies distribution requirements. The policy was adopted by the University Curriculum Committee in its November 29, 2011 meeting. Implementation will begin with the Fall 2012 catalog.

Current Policy language

Please be aware: You cannot use courses with the course prefix of your major to meet liberal studies distribution requirements. However, you may use courses with the course prefix of your minor or second major.

You may use a course or courses required for your degree to meet both major and liberal studies requirements as long as the academic prefix of the course(s) to be used is different from the prefix of your major.

[Source: Online NAU Academic Catalog 2011-12 http://www4.nau.edu/academiccatalog/2011/academiccatalog.htm]

Policy language changed to

You may use courses with the course prefix of your major to meet liberal studies distribution requirements.

Rationale

• Addresses recommendation 3 in Chapter 4 Resources in the External Reviewer Report of the Liberal Studies Program Review
• Fairness—students can lose completed LS distribution block course credits when they change major
• Delaying progress to graduation
• Extra cost to students
• Students are forced to enroll in LS courses to retake units previously earned in the distribution block—taking seats that others could use
• Goes to the heart of liberal education vs. general education
  o Liberal education focuses on the development of essential skills (critical thinking, writing, oral communication, and so forth), rather than insuring a wide range of disciplinary distribution (the essence of general education)
  o If courses are not aligned with the aspirations of liberal education, the LSC should insure that courses in program are aligned and not penalize students, as above, by prohibiting these courses

NOTE: By this change in policy, the Liberal Studies (LS) Committee is not inviting departments to make wholesale changes to their courses. The Committee would not approve moves to bring large numbers of department courses under LS distribution designation to allow more students to take major courses for LS designation. The Committee is in the process of beginning dialogues with departments on their LS course offerings, the needs both of the LS Program and the department, and the enrollment patterns of NAU students.