

9-28-2009

# University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda, September 28, 2009

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA FACULTY SENATE  
Agenda for Meeting of September 28, 2009  
3:15 P.M. Seminar Room, Towers Center

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the August 24, 2009 meeting and the September 14, 2009 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Call for Press Identification
2. Comments from Provost Gibson
3. Comments from Faculty Chair, Jesse Swan
4. Comments from Chair Wurtz

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

988/894 "Purposes and Goals of the Liberal Arts Core" -  
Liberal Arts Core Committee

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Recognition Plaques for David Marchesani and Steve O'Kane

ONGOING BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

OTHER DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA FACULTY SENATE

Calendar item 988

Docket Number \_\_\_\_\_

Title: "Purposes and Goals of the Liberal Arts Core" - Liberal Arts  
Core Committee

Standard Motions

- \_\_\_ 1. Place at head of docket, out of regular order.
- \_\_\_ 2. Docket in regular order.
- \_\_\_ 3. Docket because of special circumstances for \_\_\_\_\_  
And notify sender(s).
- \_\_\_ 4. Refer to (standing committee) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ 5. Refer to (administrative officer) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ 6. Refer to (ad hoc committee) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ 7. Return to petitioner with request for a more specific proposal.
- \_\_\_ 8. Return to petitioner with request for additional information and documentation.
- \_\_\_ 9. Return to petitioner because of decision not to docket at this time.
- \_\_\_ 10. Other procedural disposition \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES

TO: Susan Wurtz, Chair of the Faculty Senate  
FROM: Siobahn Morgan, LACC Coordinator

DATE: September 11, 2009

RE: Request for the Faculty Senate to approve the "Purposes and Goals of the Liberal Arts Core" statement (attached).

**The Liberal Arts Core Committee is asking that the Faculty Senate approve the statement defining the "Purposes and Goals of the Liberal Arts Core".**

***Background:***

In 2001, the accreditation visit by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (now HLC) noted the "lack of recognition and acceptance of the value of general education courses among some students and faculty of the University." In the interim several changes have been made to the management of the LAC to help rectify this situation, including the appointment of the LAC Coordinator, the call by the Faculty Senate for Category Coordinating Committees, implementation of MAPP assessment of freshmen and seniors, and refining the goals and purposes of individual categories within the LAC through periodic category reviews. These category purpose statements are currently available on the LAC website (<http://www.uni.edu/vpaa/lac/purposecategory.shtml>).

Another item that has been lacking is a clear, concise statement concerning the purposes and goals of the entire LAC. Such a statement, as suggested in the attached document, is intended to be a *living* document, to be altered as the LAC is altered to reflect the changing views that arise concerning our best interests for our students. The LAC Committee will be required to keep the statement updated, and will review it periodically.

An earlier version of the attached document was made available to the University community in February 2009. Feedback on it was obtained via e-mail, written correspondence and via a weblog. These comments resulted in revisions to the original draft, and the enclosed document was approved by the LAC Committee on September 11, 2009.

The purpose for such a statement would be to clearly convey to all UNI students, parents, faculty and staff a message concerning the intention of the LAC program, and what the UNI faculty hopes that students attain through participation in the program. The "Purposes and Goals" statement should be part of basic information about the LAC provided through various means such as handouts/discussions during summer orientation of new students and new faculty hires, posted on the LAC website, included in course syllabi, included in the UNI Catalog, and included within other UNI curricular materials.

## DRAFT

### **Purposes and Goals of the Liberal Arts Core**

The Liberal Arts Core (LAC) actively engages students to become self-aware participants in their own personal development through thoughtful and informed decision-making, promotion of life-long learning, enlarging the scope of their world to global issues and diverse cultures, and increasing their strategies for solving complex problems they will encounter in the future.

The LAC seeks to attain its purpose through fostering growth in three interrelated areas—skills, knowledge and perspectives.

#### *Skills*

Students develop skills in verbal and visual literacy and communication, quantitative and logical reasoning, information and technological literacy, aesthetic discernment, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and interpersonal and social relationships in diverse linguistic and cultural settings. Courses throughout the LAC enhance these skills, which provide the tools for intellectual growth, career achievement, and civic engagement.

#### *Knowledge*

Students acquire knowledge of diverse disciplines and realms of human achievement, their histories, methods, and conceptual frameworks. Thus LAC courses illuminate the range and interconnectedness of knowledge, and encourage multiple ways of viewing and exploring complex issues.

#### *Perspectives*

Students explore diverse cultural and intellectual perspectives with the skills and knowledge learned in their LAC courses. These perspectives guide students in their understanding and respect for different cultures and principles, their engagement in local, national and global communities, and their development of innovative approaches to challenges they will face in their personal, social, and professional lives.