

**Liberal Studies Oversight Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**12-3-07**

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**Attendees Present:** Melissa Wargo, Carol Mellen, Tracy Zontek, Terry Michelsen, Steve Baxley, Peter Nieckarz, Luther Jones, Brent Kinser, Beth Tyson-Lofquist, Windy Gordon, Will Poynter, and Jim DeConinck

- I. Approval of the 11-26-07 Minutes - Approved
  
- II. Discussion with Provost Carter.
  - Recently the LSOC was asked by the Electrical Engineering (BSEE) program to reduce the number of liberal studies hours from 42 to 39 hours for students majoring in electrical engineering by only requiring one course in the P1 area (social sciences perspectives) instead of two courses in order to meet requirements of articulation agreement with UNC-Charlotte (UNCC). Provost Carter indicated that curriculum is the jurisdiction of the faculty and he will not change university requirements; however, the LSOC is likely to face more requests like this in the future. For the EE program, the next step for review is to the Faculty Senate. There is a program request for a BS in Engineering, which will address the cooperative/articulation agreement with UNCC.
  - Based on a number of current initiatives (LS assessment, UNC Tomorrow, mission review, QEP), it is likely that a re-design of the liberal studies program is imminent. The Provost indicated that first we need to fix our infrastructure issues (budgeting, accounting, Banner) as too many changes at once can be overwhelming.
  - When asked about the trend for universities to follow a business model versus becoming an “engaged university,” the Provost indicated that there will be a new funding formula, with a mix of small and large classes, and the QEP will be implemented selectively; not every class will be required to be “engaged.”
  - When asked about the creation of new classes/programs and how the budget is affected, Provost Carter indicated that program costs are determined overall, not at individual course levels. At each level of program review, resources should be considered and comments can be made on the spreadsheets. The LSOC should approve courses based on the LS program document, and it should not be a perfunctory process to have a course approved in the LS program. A discussion ensued of frequency limits for LS courses, new procedures to protect the essence of the LS program, instituting a moratorium on new course proposals, and using the zero-based budgeting approach to revise the LS program.

- As the current review/assessment is completed, there may be recommendations for first-year seminar courses and integrating a capstone activity (in the major) as part of the QEP implementation.

The spring 2008 LSOC meetings will be held on Thursdays at 2:30 P.M. (tentative).