Faculty Senate Routing Form
(action/proposal attached)

I. Item Title: Resolution on General Education/Liberal Studies Task Force Follow-Up

   a) Brief Description: See Attached
   b) Initiated by: General Education/Liberal Studies Task Force

II. Faculty Senate Action: X approved □ not approved □ other date: 4/25/2012

   Vote: □ Voice Vote, Unanimous  Voice Vote, Majority In Favor
   X Electronic Clicker: 19 Ayes 5 Nays  Abstentions

   FS Secretary signature: Rebecca Shaue date 5-3-2012

III. Provost: □ for information □ Recognition of Receipt
       X for action………………… □ approved  □ not approved

   Comments: ____________________________________________________________

   Person responsible for Implementation: Mark Lord, Carol Smirnoff 3rd Faculty Senate

   Provost signature: Beth Lofquist date 5-11-12

IV. Chancellor: □ for information □ Recognition of Receipt
               X for action………………… □ approved  □ not approved

   Comments: ____________________________________________________________

   Chancellor signature David D. Belcher date 2-3-2012

Once finalized copies will be returned to the Provost Office’s representative who will scan and distribute electronically to:

   Chancellor
   Provost
   Chair of Faculty Senate
   Secretary of the Faculty Senate
   Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (for catalog and handbook)
   Associate Dean of Graduate School (for catalog)
   Others (i.e. person responsible for implementation)
Resolution on General Education/Liberal Studies Task Force Follow-Up

April 25, 2012

Whereas, in their December 3, 2009 meeting the Faculty Senate approved a resolution that created a Task Force on Liberal Studies to research general education programs at comparable institutions, receive input from colleges and schools regarding their needs in terms of liberal studies, hold open meetings with faculty regarding liberal studies, develop a series of general education learning objectives suitable for meeting the needs of Western students in the 21st century, and finalize a report and present its recommendations to the Faculty Senate for action; and

Whereas the Task Force members Travis Bennett, Peg Connolly, James Costa, James Deconinck, John Habel, Bruce Henderson (chair), Brent Kinser, Beth McDonough, Bob Mulligan, Gary Jones, Phil Sanger, April Tallant, Laura Wright, Glenda Hensley, Peyton Flinchum (student) and Sofia Lilly (student) have worked arduously for the past two and a half years fulfilling the charge set forth by the aforementioned resolution; and

Whereas the Task Force reviewed the recent published literature on general education and looked carefully at the general education programs of scores of other institutions like Western; and

Whereas the Task Force solicited the input of the members of our own university through two series of open forums, through focus groups and through meetings with individuals with significant interest in general education as well as conducted an extensive survey of the faculty; and

Whereas the Task Force has presented their final report to the Chair of the Faculty on April 10, 2012 for submission to the Faculty Senate for action; and

Whereas the Task Force suggests that the Senate appoint a group to determine how the Senate best handle the consideration of our proposal and suggest precise means for implementation if the proposal portion is approved; and

Whereas the Faculty Constitution (Section 10 on Curriculum Assessment, Development, and Review, Subsection 2(b)) states "In the event that the liberal studies program is reviewed as a whole, the chair of the LSC (Liberal Studies Committee) will work in conjunction with the chair of the University Curriculum Committee to ensure that all colleges are formally consulted via each of their curriculum committees. If a major liberal studies program change is recommended, the joint LSC/UCC committee will then bring a formal resolution to the Faculty Senate for action."

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate accepts the report from the General Education/Liberal Studies Task Force with sincere appreciation for their dedication and two and a half years of hard work, and in keeping with the Faculty Constitution, directs the Liberal Studies Committee (LSC) and University Curriculum Committees (UCC) to work together to formally get feedback regarding the proposed general education program from each college via each of their curriculum committees. After consulting with the colleges, the LSC and UCC will reconvene jointly to review the proposed curriculum change and then bring a formal resolution to the Faculty Senate for action which includes recommendations for an implementation process if the program is approved.