

## Western Carolina University Faculty Senate Guidelines for the Constitution and Mission of the Liberal Studies Task Force 2009

The mission of the Liberal Studies Task Force is to assess the current Liberal Studies Program to determine whether or not it serves our students optimally in the context of the new guiding principles for the University, including the QEP, the UNC Tomorrow report, and the Stewardship of Place model. The Liberal Studies Task Force will honor the intrinsic value of every academic discipline and recognize the value of cross-curricular academic initiatives. If the Task Force determines that there is need for changes to the Liberal Studies Program, the Liberal Studies Task Force will recommend them based on their assessment. These recommendations would then become the basis for a revised or replaced Liberal Studies Program document.

During the first stage in this process, which will begin with the 2009/2010 academic year, the Liberal Studies Task Force will gather information about the Liberal Studies Programs currently at WCU and at other peer institutions. The task force will solicit opinions from students, faculty, and other constituents at WCU in order to assess the Program's strengths and weaknesses. The resulting report will combine this summary with a rationale for retaining, modifying, or reforming the Liberal Studies Program. The completion of this report will be followed by a period of comment and review by the affected constituencies.

If changes to the Liberal Studies Program are considered necessary, the Liberal Studies Task Force will begin a second stage of work in which they produce a set of recommendations to improve the Liberal Studies Program in the context of the new guiding principles of the University. The Task Force would again seek a wide range of faculty input while producing this report. The Task Force shall present monthly progress reports to the Faculty Senate. The completion of this second report would also be followed by a period of comment and review by the faculty and presented to the Faculty Senate for approval.

For the third phase, the Task Force would then produce a new Liberal Studies Program document, which would be submitted to the Academic Policy and Review Council, and the Faculty Senate for approval.

Membership on the Liberal Studies Task Force will be constituted proportionally as the Faculty Senate as reflected in the Faculty Constitution. Task Force members will be selected by the faculty in their respective Colleges in a special election.