

School of Social Sciences Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2009

Those present:

Jean Abshire, Ronald Allman, James Beeby, Stephanie Bower, Dana Creamer, Donna Dahlgren, Amy Edison, Deborah Finkel, Thomas Kotulak, Carl Kramer, Brigitte LeNormand, Todd Manson, Robin Morgan, John Newman, Bernadette Olson, Greg Phipps, Kelly Ryan, Valerie Scott, Dean Clifford Staten, Joseph Wert, Diane Wille, and Brandy Wood

Dean Staten welcomed those attending and introduced Debbie Finkel to speak about the Master of Liberal Studies Program. Debbie noted that she had sent an email to Program Coordinators regarding the Liberal Studies Program. Since the students in this program are basically designing their own degrees and can have trouble determining courses which are amenable for electives in masters program work, it would be helpful for them to have a list of courses which are suitable for this purpose. As Director of the MLS, Debbie is asking that each discipline create a list of courses they feel are suitable for this purpose. Also, if anyone has any questions on this subject or any MLS topic, please contact Debbie.

Stephanie Bower noted that the new discipline information handouts are now available. You may give any positive comments to Jenny Wolf. For any concerns, please contact Stephanie.

Dean Staten presented the adopted goals for the 5-Year Strategic Plan with suggested initiatives worded as they were presented to the committee. He asked for comments regarding the initiatives for each Goal. Discussion followed including concerns for funding to implement any or all goals, adding upper-level courses as well as introductory and masters-level courses to the educational excellence area, giving information on career opportunities in existing courses, addressing probationary student problems before students are forced to stop out or drop out, as well as a task force to address the merit review process and alternatives to that process.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.