

UC 9753 08S

To: Marsha Daly for Undergraduate Council
From: Sarah Fishman, CLASS [REDACTED]
Re: New BA in Liberal Studies
Date: 11 April 2008

RECEIVED APR 16 2007
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CONCEPT APPROVED

5/14/08
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Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies:

In the interest of starting a discussion, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences would like to bring this draft proposal for a new Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree to the attention of the Undergraduate Council. The Chairs and Directors of the College and the Undergraduate Studies Committee have both approved the ideas as drafted below. Should the UC be favorable, moving this forward will require both a much more fully developed rationale, catalogue language and the various forms required by the Coordinating Board to approve a new major. However, before taking the time and effort to prepare all of that, the College would like to know if there is broader support for such an idea.

Many other universities, including the Portland State University, Northern Arizona University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, offer a BA in Liberal Studies. The programs' structures vary widely, but CLASS feels that the structure we propose will both have some rigor, build on what we have rather than requiring the creation and staffing of an entirely new program.

Goal: To promote interdisciplinary study that cuts across traditional boundaries, yet grounds students in disciplinary content, issues and methods.

Degree Requirements:

A Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies major allows students to combine three academic disciplines within the college. This program requires students to complete minors in three different disciplines, at least one being a program that also offers a major. Students must complete at least 18 hours in each minor even if the minor only requires 15 hours, and must complete a capstone requirement, as determined by the minor, in at least one of the minors. Students must file degree plans for all three minors and complete all other Core, University and College requirements. Courses taken toward each minor cannot be counted toward the other minors.

The College could consider the possibility of allowing students to select minors from a specified list of minors outside CLASS, such as the International Studies minor from Bauer.

We could also allow students to petition to count one minor from outside the college, with justification.

CLASS
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4/15/08