

Bachelor of Science in Liberal & Applied Studies Coordinating Committee
Minutes
October 17, 2016
2:00 pm
M304

DRAFT – PENDING APPROVAL

Present: Randy Prus (Chair), Dan Althoff, Chris Moretti, Lei Qian, Mary Beth Nottingham

Absent: Dell McLain, Charla Hall

Guests/Ex officio: Meagan Newman, Tim Boatmun

The Minutes from the meeting of September 19 were approved as submitted.

Dr. Mary Beth Nottingham was welcomed as the newest member of the Committee; Dr. Tom Harvey has left Southeastern to accept a new position at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

It had been suggested by Charla Hall and Dell McLain at the previous meeting that discussion concerning assessment should begin by examining the program's objectives, and the Committee agreed to investigate what other institutions had already in place.

Committee members presented their findings on Goals and Objectives for degree programs at other institutions with degrees similar to the BSLAS at Southeastern. Those other institutions included Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State University, University of Central Oklahoma, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and Rogers State University. Chris Moretti reported that he had also looked at more than 20 institutions, both within and outside the state.

With the exception of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, explicit goals and objectives for the Bachelor of General Studies (and similarly named degrees) were not available. Randy Prus discovered the Program Goals of the "Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies" degree program at Southwestern. He distributed that list and included the information on the Blackboard site for this committee.

Tim Boatmun noted that SE's degree program is a major/minor (72 hour) degree; other institutions offer a major in "General Studies" (the most commonly used term) and that some institutions have stopped transcribing minors as such.

Wide ranging, free discussion concerning the BSLAS degree included the observation that most of the students receiving the degree would actually prefer a discipline-specific major, but that their life circumstances—and sometimes the availability of courses in various programs—sometimes "conspired" to make that impossible.

The Committee will continue to work towards setting program Goals and Objectives and will also examine the current disciplinary groupings with an eye towards streamlining options for students.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21 at 2:00 pm in M304.

Minutes/summary report submitted by Dan Althoff