MEMORANDUM

To: William Kline, Liberal and Integrative Studies

From: CLAS Curriculum Committee
       David Bertaina, Chair

Re: Liberty Studies Minor Proposal & Concentration Proposal

Date: May 2, 2012

The College Curriculum Committee has reviewed and discussed the proposals for the minor and the concentration in Liberty Studies to be housed under Liberal and Integrative Studies. After the first stage of revision, the committee has concluded that the proposal meets the UIS and CLAS strategic plans for course offerings at the university.

The Curriculum Committee also had several suggestions to be addressed at the next level of governance. These include changing the title from “A Minor in the Liberal Studies major” to “Liberty Studies Minor” since a student minoring in Liberty Studies could not major in the department. There are some spelling corrections necessary in the minor proposal such as line 31 (change “fomats” to “formats”) and line 26, “minor in Liberty Studies.” Also note on lines 87-88 that since a minor in Liberty Studies cannot major in LIS (only someone with a concentration in Liberty Studies can major in LIS) this section must be deleted or revised. On lines 92-93, delete the section stating the minor can “attract and retain some students to the major” since one cannot both major in LIS and minor Liberty Studies. Again on lines 102-103, note that LIS 211 was not designed for the major, but for the minor.

The Curriculum Committee felt that the proposal for the concentration in Liberty Studies was acceptable. In the minor proposal, on the other hand, it must be emphasized that Liberty Studies cannot benefit the LIS majors because they cannot minor in the program. Instead, the minor proposal should be geared toward appealing to students outside the program. For instance, it would be beneficial to mention its potential for Business majors, since it has a business philosophy course. Philosophy is another potential area for capturing students. References to LIS majors should be deleted from the minor proposal, and the proposal should instead focus on the unique contributions of the minor. Overall, the different minor and concentration proposals should be more specific to their distinctive rationales and purposes. These issues may need to be addressed at the next level of governance.
Thank you for the minor and concentration proposals in Liberty Studies and for your commitment to developing the curriculum for the college and the university.

cc: William Kline
    Jim Ermatinger
    Harshavardhan Bapat
    Karen Moranski