

**Liberal Studies Oversight Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**11-26-07**

**Attendees Present:** Luther Jones, Brent Kinser, Carol Burton, Peter Nieckarz, Alex Macaulay, Tracy Zontek, Melissa Wargo, Windy Gordon, Jim DeConinck, Terry Michelsen, and Kari Hensley

- I. Approve 11-12-07 Minutes-** approved as amended. Peter will send corrected minutes to Kari to upload onto LSOC website.
- II. Liberal Studies and the QEP-** Discussion took place in reference to materials distributed (attached) and a few concerns were mentioned.
- There is nothing specific about demography and the study of US and world demographics in the Liberal Studies program goals
  - Social Sciences perspectives area lacks learning goals related to globalization
  - We need to use a spreadsheet as an avenue for discussion and opportunity to inform the Chancellor, faculty, students, etc.-how we are meeting the learning goals of the liberal study program?
  - Students lack organizational skills, leadership and initiative; how are these/are they addressed in the liberal studies program?
  - LSOC document focuses on nouns in terms of student learning outcomes while the Chancellor's Opening of School Address uses verbs (e.g., experiential learning)  
What are some proactive ideas to make the Chancellor's charge a reality?
  - Compile a network of activities to allow service learning component
  - Add survey questions to course and student evaluations to identify what is taught and include definitions
  - Involve the General Education Review Committee from 1998 that originally formed the Liberal Studies program for their feedback
- III. Future Items:**
- Have questions ready for Provost Carter's visit with the LSOC next month
  - RSVP for Faculty Conversations hosted by the Provost's Office
  - Next meeting 12-3-07 is the last of the semester. Members of LSOC should send next semester's availability schedule to Kari by the end of the current semester

## Definitions

**Globalization** can be defined as the worldwide integration of [economic](#), [cultural](#), [political](#), [religious](#), and [social](#) systems. **Globalization** (or **Globalisation**) is the increasing interconnectedness of people and places as a result of advances in transport, communication, and information technologies that cause political, economic, and cultural convergence.

It should not be narrowly confused with [economic globalization](#), which is only one aspect. While some scholars and observers of globalization stress convergence of patterns of [production](#) and [consumption](#) and a resulting [homogenization](#) of culture, others stress that globalization has the potential to take many diverse forms. In economics, globalization is the convergence of [prices](#), [products](#), [wages](#), [rates of interest](#) and [profits](#) towards [developed country](#) norms. Globalization of the economy depends on the role of human [migration](#), international [trade](#), movement of [capital](#), and integration of financial [markets](#). The [International Monetary Fund](#) notes the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide through increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions, free international capital flows, and more rapid and widespread diffusion of [technology](#). [Theodore Levitt](#) is usually credited with globalization's first use in an economic context.

**Internationalization** (sometimes shortened to "I18N", meaning "I - eighteen letters -N") is the process of planning and implementing products and services so that they can easily be adapted to specific local languages and cultures, a process called [localization](#). The internationalization process is sometimes called translation or localization *enablement*. Enablement can include:

- Allowing space in user interfaces (for example, hardware labels, help pages, and online menus) for translation into languages that require more characters
- Developing with products (such as Web editors or authoring tools) that can support international character sets ([Unicode](#))
- Creating print or Web site graphic images so that their text labels can be translated inexpensively
- Using written examples that have global meaning
- For software, ensuring data space so that messages can be translated from languages with single-byte character codes (such as English) into languages requiring multiple-byte character codes (such as Japanese Kanji)

**Internationalization** is the process of designing and coding a product (in our case, higher education programs) so it can perform properly when it is modified for use in different languages and [locales](#).

**Culture:** is a shared, learned, symbolic system of values, beliefs and attitudes that shapes and influences perception and behavior – apply diversity to this definition.

## Civic Engagement

Service-learning and civic engagement are not the same thing in the sense that not all service-learning has a civic dimension and not all civic engagement is service-learning. For definition's sake, civic engagement is the broader motif, encompassing service-learning but not limited to it. One useful definition of civic engagement is the following: individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic engagement can take many forms, from individual voluntarism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem or interact with the institutions of representative democracy. Civic engagement encompasses a range of specific activities such as working in a soup kitchen, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official or voting. Indeed, an underlying principal of our approach is that an engaged citizen should have the ability, agency and opportunity to move comfortably among these various types of civic acts.

## Service Learning

Service learning as a special form of experiential education whereby students engage in organized activities designed to enhance their understanding of course content, meet community needs, develop career-related skills, and become responsible citizens.

**Synthesis** – the ability to integrate knowledge from different areas into an original whole – as the driving framework for teaching and learning. Many students view their courses and co-curricular experiences as isolated activities to be approached in check-list fashion. The aim of synthesis is to cross the disciplines, curricular and co-curricular experiences to facilitate students' development of a clearer purpose at the university.

SYNTHESIS	SELF-EXPLORATION	INTEGRATIVE LEARNING	SERVICE LEARN	ORIENT
-----------	------------------	----------------------	---------------	--------

GLOBALIZATION	CULTURAL DIVERSITY	US DEMOGRAPHY/DIVERSITY	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	LEADERSHIP	TEAMS
---------------	--------------------	-------------------------	------------------	------------	-------