MEMO

To: Dean Pamela Washington
From: Linda Steele
Cc: Assoc. Dean Gary Steward
Date: 11/23/09
Re: Alignment Task Force Project

- The task force consisted of Linda Steele, Amanda Miller, Alix Mazuet, John Murphy, Sam Lawrence, and Michael Springer

- The task force held two face-to-face meetings on 10/30/09 and 11/6/09. Additionally, the task force communicated and edited the document by email.

- In the first meeting, I was selected to chair the committee. We discussed our task in general, determined our next meeting, and assigned everyone with the job of locating models of mission statements.

- In the second meeting, I provided the task force with an initial draft of a mission statement, vision statement, and list of goals. We also examined all the models that the committee provided as well as the mission and vision statements of Academic Affairs. Our models were statements from many organizations, not all academic, but mostly non-profit entities. Among the models we looked at were mission and vision statements from:
  - Oklahoma City Zoo
  - NASA
  - College of Liberal Arts, Cleveland State
  - History Department, Ball State College
  - National Aquarium Baltimore
  - Boise State University
  - Coca Cola
  - UCO Academic Affairs
• Working together during the meeting, we rewrote the initial draft. During the next two weeks, we communicated by email and continued to edit our draft. By 11/20/09 we voted to submit our document.

Issues:

• We struggled with defining “alignment.” We were unsure if it meant only to paraphrase the existing mission and vision statement of Academic Affairs, or to create a new mission and vision that might not parallel the statements of AA.

• We also had difficulty with the vision statement. Vision statements by definition are predictions of the future. They are written in future tense and depict what the organization wishes to become. Every vision statement we examined from our models was written in that fashion. However, the vision statement from Academic Affairs is written in present tense and seems a similar statement to its mission statement. Because we wished to follow the example of Academic Affairs, we decided to present our vision statement as a current vision of the college.

This task force was a delight to work with and I believe we accomplished a great deal. Attached to this memo is our draft of the College of Liberal Arts mission statement, vision statement, and goals for submission to the chair’s council.

If you need anything further, please let me know.
Liberal Arts Alignment Task Force

Draft of Academic mission, vision, and goals

11/23/09

Academic Mission:

The College of Liberal Arts’ mission is to provide a transformative academic experience that

- Encourages rigorous inquiry
- Enables critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Cultivates knowledge in dynamic learning environments
- Ignites awareness and involvement in our interdependent world
- Requires research and creative activities
- Actively engages in continuous improvement

Academic Vision Statement:

The College of Liberal Arts exists to prepare students to succeed in a diverse and ever-changing world through both the substantial core curriculum serviced in CLA and the dynamic knowledge-based programs offered in the College of Liberal Arts. The college is committed to providing cutting-edge learning environments which employ innovative and multiple instructional methods that foster successful transformative learning, critical thinking, cultural awareness, and effective communication skills. Provided with a comprehensive discipline knowledge, graduates of CLA are prepared to offer leadership and service to their local and global communities; to continue their creative and scholarly activities throughout their lives and careers; and to live emotionally and intellectually healthy lives.

Academic Goals:

- Increase students’ comprehension in their discipline knowledge
- Engage all students in research and creative activities
- Foster leadership and service learning opportunities for all students
- Provide collaborative opportunities for students with other departments and colleges, with other institutions of learning, and with the metropolitan and global communities.
- Provide healthy, interactive, and technologically state-of-the-art learning environments to accommodate effective, transformative teaching and learning.