

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Tamara Machmut-Jhashi, Associate Provost

FROM: Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Chairperson
Senate Budget Review Committee

SUBJECT: Report on Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Proposal

DATE: April 14, 2010

The Senate Budget Review Committee has reviewed the proposal for the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Program and unanimously agreed that the proposal has not met the criteria established by the charge to our committee. SBRC formally requested a written response to the concerns discussed below, however, the concerns were not addressed.

SBRC believes that the following portions of the proposal were missing:

- benchmarks of other programs both internal and external to OU
- detailed statement of unique features of the program as compared to others, both internal and external to OU
- letter from the dean expressing a plan to fund (or not to fund) the program should it fall into financial difficulty

The proposed program seems to be a duplication of existing programs, most notably that of the Bachelor of Integrated Studies program and to a lesser extent the Honors College, and the SBRC wonders why minor changes cannot be simply added to the BIS program. There is no discussion of the budget implications of this duplication, or of shifting faculty from their current departments to teach the new courses in this program.

With respect to the *proforma* budget, the SBRC finds the student headcounts unrealistic, the assumptions of no tuition or salary increases over 5 years unrealistic, no description of the unit of primary appointment of the new faculty member, the number of proposed sections of the new proposed courses do not fit with the rest of the proposal, and the amounts listed for professional development seem far out of line.

Without acceptable explanations/responses to the above concerns, SBRC could not support the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies proposal.