The following document is the Liberal Education Reform Framework passed by the University of Liberal Education Committee (ULEC) on November 11, 2011. The Academic Policies Committee (APC) is now methodically moving through this document, after having conducted due process by collaborating with ULEC to obtain campus-wide input on the proposal. The edits and comments illustrate changes to the ULEC proposal and dates discussed/passed by APC.

This is a working document. APC invites input regarding this liberal education reform proposal via the one-question Qualtrics survey on the Liberal Education Reform website (http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm). APC minutes providing discussion details are located at http://www.uwec.edu/usenate/SenateCommittees/APC/.

LE Reform Framework adopted on April 21, 2011 and approved revisions as of November 11, 2011

A Flexible Framework for GE/LE

Proposal text:

Students will achieve the Liberal Education Learning Outcomes in the following ways:

Liberal Education Courses and Experiences

Completion of 42 credits of Liberal Education (LE) course work that will include the natural sciences (at least 2 courses), the social sciences (at least 2 courses), and the humanities & creative arts (at least 2 courses). This course work is comprised of at least 18 credits of integrative learning experiences and up to 24 credits of liberal education electives. At least one course must be a laboratory science course.

Integrative Learning experiences may include thematic bundles, which center on fundamental questions and are defined, developed, and delivered by a team of educators, linked courses, interdisciplinary courses, liberal studies courses, or other courses noted by “INT” in the catalog. Integrated learning courses meet both the integrative learning outcomes and the liberal education learning outcomes.

Liberal Education courses are noted as “LE” in the catalog.

Students will complete:

* Fundamental Skills and Competencies-Intellectual Foundations

Comment [PJA1]: May 8, 2012: Passed a version of this in relation to the Arts & Humanities discussion:

Liberal Education Breadth Requirement comprising 18 credits of intentionally designed, integrative learning Arts and Sciences experiences with 6 credits in each of the following three major categories: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences.

Comment [PJA2]: Passed 5/15/2012

Comment [PJA3]: Passed 2/21/2012 as part of the “Liberal Education Breadth Requirements” discussion involving Natural Sciences.
1. Mathematics competency. See current catalog and/or Statistics Competency; Competency Examination or one course.

2. First-Year Writing Requirement: One semester of college-level composition. Fulfillment of first-year writing program outcomes through approved course or equivalent.

3. Oral Communication-intensive requirement: at least one course credit or equivalent.

4. Ethical Reasoning: One course, at least one credit or equivalent. At least one course credit which includes a focus on all the following topics (from the AAC&U Ethical Reasoning VALUE rubric): ethical self-awareness, understanding different ethical perspectives/concepts, ethical issue recognition, application of ethical perspectives/concepts, and evaluation of different ethical perspectives/concepts. A minimum of one credit of the course must be dedicated to these topics. Courses meeting these requirements are by “ER” in the catalog.

B. Liberal Education Breadth Requirements

5. Arts and Humanities (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits)

6. Social Sciences (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits)

7. Natural Sciences (2 courses outside the student’s major, at least 6 credits)

8. Two courses (or a minimum of 6 credits) in race, class, and/or gender equity studies. At least one of which course will focus on the following ethnic groups in the United States: African-American, Native American, Asian-American, and Latino/a-American consistent with the UW-System’s “Cultural Diversity graduation requirement. Courses meeting this requirement are noted by “RCG” in the catalog.

9. One global learning course or a study abroad experience. Three credits of global learning and a global learning immersion experience or six credits of global learning. Courses meeting this requirement are noted by “GL” in the catalog.

No more than two courses of the 42 credits of LE course work may be completed from any single departmental or program course prefix.
C. Additional Requirements

10. One immersion experience. Immersion experiences may be completed by either coursework or non-coursework activities. The following experiences may meet the immersion experience criteria: study abroad, domestic intercultural immersion (including relatively short, inexpensive options), faculty mentored scholarly / creative activity, national student exchange, internships, student teaching, and clinical / field experience. Courses meeting the immersion experience requirement are noted by “IM” in the catalog.

11. 30 hours of service learning

Together, the integrative learning experiences and the liberal education electives satisfy both the need for disciplinary breadth and the array of learning outcomes.

11/06/2012 Note to the University:
Although the Academic Policies Committee (APC) is completing its discussion and interim votes for the individual components of the liberal education reform proposal, we must still address the following university requirements that were not included in the University Liberal Education Committee proposal. Our plan is to address these requirements in the following order.

- Wellness
- Physical Activity
- Foreign Language/Foreign Culture
- Minor

Following the above requirements, the APC will return to the overall proposal and discuss the 2-department prefix limit and the total credits/distribution.

12/13/2012 Note to the University:
The Academic Policies Committee (APC) has completed its discussion of the University Liberal Education Committee proposal for liberal education reform. Given the new liberal education learning goals and outcomes passed by the University Senate on 12/11/2012, the APC is now moving forward with an APC proposal for liberal education reform. Please look for the APC proposal on the Liberal Education Reform website: http://www.uwec.edu/Undergrad/Liberal-Education-Reform.htm. Please also post on this same website your comments regarding this proposal.