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**University Studies**  
**North Carolina A&T State University**  
[www.ncat.edu/~univstud](http://www.ncat.edu/~univstud)

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Full Committee Meeting Jan 5, 2005 Minutes

The University Studies (UNST) Committee met on Wednesday Jan 5, 2005 in the Library Conference Room at 10:00 AM. The following members were present: Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Lea Williams, Nita Dewberry, Trent Larson, Shirley Bell, Jean Williams, Peter Meyers.

- I. It was agreed that Cluster Theme leaders, Faculty Senate President and the chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee will serve as ex-officio members of the UNST Faculty Roundtable.
- II. Faculty roundtable members will be invited to attend future meetings of the UNST committee.
- III. There was a question whether an individual can serve in multiple roles (say, as a member of the UNST committee, the Faculty roundtable and as a member/leader of a Cluster) and whether this would give the appearance of a conflict of interest. After some discussion, it was agreed that one can either be a member of the UNST committee or serve on the Roundtable. It was also agreed that a Roundtable member cannot serve as a Cluster leader. Some of the faculty serving in multiple capacities will need to relinquish some of their positions to comply with this agreement.
- IV. To emphasize communication skills, it was agreed that all courses (Foundation and cluster-theme based courses) will be communications-intensive.
- V. It was pointed out that UNST Learning Objectives 16 and 17 were not represented in the Foundation Courses. It was suggested to add activities and topics covering these objectives in the Freshman Seminar course.
- VI. Following up on Peter Meyers' concern regarding the difficulty in assessing Objective 10 (*Interact effectively with people from diverse cultures*), it was agreed that this objective will be handled through the Volunteer Service requirement.
- VII. Simkins reminded committee members of the upcoming workshop with Peggy Maki and Terry Rhodes. More details are posted on the UNST website and will also be e-mailed to all campus faculty.
- VIII. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on Jan 19, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Recorded by:  
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## DRAFT

### UNST 100: Freshman Seminar

1 Credit, 1(1-0)

#### Catalog Description

This seminar will emphasize the role of the University Studies program and present a broad overview of the curriculum structure and rationale. The seminar will introduce students to a variety of interdisciplinary themes within the UNST program. Introductory discussions on critical thinking, communication skills, ethics, diversity, civic engagement, and globalization will be included. External speakers will be invited to lead discussions.

#### Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Rationale for UNST, overview of the UNST program
2	What is “interdisciplinary”, how is it different from “multidisciplinary”, why is it important to develop interdisciplinary thinking
3	History of A&T and role played in A&T in the region, state and the world
4	Overview of the FUTURES vision and strategic plan and how UNST fits in it
5	Discussion of course paper
6	Importance of global perspectives in education, opportunities for global studies
7	Critical thinking skills, what are they, how to develop them
8	Communication skills, why they are important, how to develop them throughout life
9	Diversity, respect for diverse thought, value of diverse teams
10	Ethics, code of ethics, resolving ethical dilemmas
11	Aggie Pride compact, student affairs handbook personal development and leadership skills
12	Using information technology and the library
13	University’s academic policies, advising process, role of various offices (registrar, financial aid, academic units, career placement, student affairs)
14	Open

#### Paper

The FCC is planning to allow the use of cell phones on airplanes. Discuss the technological, social, economic and security aspects of the proposed plan and take a position on the proposed idea: either support it or criticize it. Include at least 5 references and a justification for your position. The paper must be typed, 4-5 pages, one inch margins, Times New Roman 12 point font and single spaced. The paper is due on the last day of the semester.