Gen Ed Committee Meeting

August 30, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Kathy Brittain White Conference Room - DCED

Present: Sue McLarry (NHP); Lynita Cooksey (AVCAA); Bill Humphrey (AG); Josie Welsh Assessment); Dan Marburger (BUS); Chris Harper (COM); Lance Bryant (ED); Rick Clifft (Engineering); Temma Balducci (FA); Rebecca Oliver (Honors); Jerry Ball (HSS); David Levenbach (HSS); Phyllis Pobst (HSS); Timothy Norman (Military Science); Lee Clark (Military Science); Jeff Jenness (SCOM); Tanja McKay (SCOM); Chris Collins (Secretary – AAR)

Absent: Jill Simons (University College)

Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Dr. McLarry, Chair of Gen Ed Committee.

Minutes were reviewed by committee. Motion was made by Major Tim Norman to approve minutes as is. Second was made by Dr. Bill Humphrey. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Discussion regarding specific bullets in the draft recommendation to the Provost followed – no action taken at this time.

Bullet #1 – accept this assessment of critical thinking and writing as best data we have

Now.

Bullet #2 - each department must be accountable for their own students (Gen Ed Committee believe that Gen Ed skills are essential for all baccalaureate graduates and departments must have responsibility for own majors) (Dr. Levenbach to rewrite this bullet)

Bullet #3 – Best practices in teaching indicate that students who are not required to complete a considerable amount of analytic writing do not score as high in writing. Have students write 20 pages per semester and read 40 pages per week.

Bullet #4 – assessment activities should be appropriately valued for PRT; as teaching, scholarship or service.

Bullet #5 – Faculty Development

Bullet #6 – the General Education Committee will begin course specific assessment of general education courses.

Recommendation - need a direction/target “In five years we want to see…”

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Departments define best means of assessing students at end.

Reviewed charge of General Education committee:

1. Review each course
2. Review assessment data on the Gen Ed program, rate and make recommendation

Gen Ed curriculum is fundamental for the development of a well-educated person.

Proposed goals for this year related to assessment: Evaluate each course (English Comp I & II, Philosophy and Oral Communication)

The Gen Ed committee should move away from comparing freshmen to seniors and instead look at courses within the Gen Ed program.

Need to consider best practices for critical thinking and writing effectively.

LOAC would like to have a strategically designed collection of data of learning outcomes from seniors.

Thoughts to include in the recommendation to the Provost:

 Gen Ed Curriculum Foundational

Look at courses that provide foundation for critical thinking and writing

Recommend the critical thinking – best practices

Additional resources for grading

Recommend a strategically designed method of collecting data

Recommend Faculty Development for best practices in critical thinking and writing

Assessment of proficiency of seniors be turned over to LOAC

Well supported writing center – e-rater for students

Dr. McLarry indicated that this recommendation must be completed by the end of next week.

**For next week’s discussion:**

All programs have to go to 120 hours by fall 2012. Need to get information to colleges and departments regarding general education so they can change curricula and proposals.

To begin the discussion Dr. McLarry made the following recommendation: Maintain the current general education program goals but reduce the specific courses to the State Minimum Core of 35 hours. Each department or degree program would identify how

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they will meet each goal. For example, to meet critical thinking goal a department may require Logic and Practical Reasoning or it may be another course in the major.

Need Gen Ed website set up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Collins

Assistant to AVCAS