**Gen Ed Committee Meeting**

**September 27, 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); Myleea Hill (COM); Lance Bryant (ED); Rick Clifft (Engineering); Temma Balducci (FA); Rebecca Oliver (Honors); Jerry Ball (HSS); David Levenbach (HSS); Phyllis Pobst (HSS); Jeff Jenness (SCOM); Tanja McKay (SCOM); Chris Collins (Secretary – AAR)

Absent: Timothy Norman (Military Science); Lee Clark (Military Science); Jill Simons (University College)

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Sue McLarry, Chair of Gen Ed Committee.

The minutes from 8/30/11 were reviewed by the committee. Correction was made regarding the discussion of the bullets in the draft recommendation to the Provost. Statement should read “Discussion regarding specific bullets in the draft recommendation to the Provost followed – no action taken at this time.” Bill Humphrey motioned to approve minutes with the correction, second by ……………, motion carried. Minutes were approved with the correction.

Minutes from 9/13/11 were reviewed by the committee. Rick Clifft indicated the following corrections needed to be made to the Engineering Gen Ed Core Proposal. Humanities should be 3 hrs; Global Issues – move to Humanities and credit hours should reflect 0; Social Science should be 6 hours (Engineering to substitute Math); add Math with 3 hours. Rebecca Oliver motioned to approve the minutes with corrections, second by Dan Marburger, motion carried. Minutes approved with corrections

Comment from Josie should read: “HLC focuses on goals as a starting point for curriculum revisions)

Jeff Jenness discussed the spreadsheet he sent out comparing the framework for the Gen Ed core courses.

Tanya McKay discussed the College of Sciences and Mathematics proposal.

1. College in favor of keeping the current Goal structure even if some of the goals need to be folded into other “course categories” and/or distributed among courses that fall outside of the remodeled Gen Ed Program.
2. College in favor of eliminating the Critical Thinking category on the ground that this goal can be effectively assigned to courses within the different majors.
3. College generally favors maintaining a Global Issues category, except folded into some other category as outlined in the HSS Gen Ed Proposal.

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1. College generally favors maintaining a Health and Wellness category, although opinions are more split on this. Due to obesity and health issues in the State of Arkansas, this is considered an important Gen Ed goal. However, this is not clear whether this can be maintained if the total Gen Ed hours are cut to 35. Many students take a 1 hour activity class to meet the 15 hours needed for scholarships, so this may help meet this need.
2. College unanimously agrees that Gen Ed should be cut to at least 38 hours. Some Departments require cuts to 35 hours, and no Department would be harmed by a cut to 35 hours.
3. College sees this as an opportunity to remove exceptions to the ASU-wide Gen Ed Program. If the Program is reduced to 35 hours, there is a greater likelihood that programs such as Computer Science, Engineering, etc. could adopt the same Gen Ed Program as the rest of the University, making for a more consistent academic experience across campus.

Temma Balducci – Fine Arts – no changes to their proposal from the last time.

Lance Bryant discussed the College of Education’s proposal.

1. Lance indicated that given the current state of wellness and health issues impacting the State of Arkansas and the Nation, the College of Education would argue that ASU’s General Education Goal 8 “Providing foundations necessary to achieve health and wellness” should remain intact. The COE also believes that the 2 courses aligned with this goal (PE 1002 & NRS 2203) should remain as general education options for all ASU students. Lance provided statements in his handout as a glimpse of the state of health in Arkansas compared to the rest of the United States. He also provided a letter from the Surgeon General, State of Arkansas in support of ASU’s health and wellness goal.
2. Understanding that ACT 747 requires all academic programs have a maximum of 120 credit hours by Fall 2012, the COE recommends that ASU’s General Education Core be set at 37-38 hours, if possible.
3. In the event that the General Education Committee votes to eliminate Goal #8 first, which would subsequently remove the two courses (PE 1002 & NRS 2203) as options for all students in the ASU General Education Core, then the COE would support the State Minimum Core as outlines by ACT 747 offering as much course selection flexibility as reasonable for students of all programs.

Dan Marburger asked Lance if the COE doesn’t eliminate Health & Wellness what do they recommend that they do to get to the 37-38 hours? Lance indicated that the COE had not discussed this option.

Dan Marburger discussed the College of Business proposal. Dan indicated that most majors can cut 6 hours out of the Gen Ed. The COB recommends the following changes to the general education curriculum:

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1. Eliminate the Health and Wellness core area. Allow individual majors to

re-instate health and wellness coursework into their major requirements if they choose to do so.

1. Retain all other core areas (including Critical Thinking and Understanding Global Issues).
2. Reduce the number of credit hours required for Arts and Humanities from nine to six.

Marcie Hayes discussed the College of Communications proposal along with Myleea Hill.

1. Fine Arts & Humanities – 6 hours
2. Social Sciences – 6 hours
3. Got rid of Health & Wellness and Global Issues but could be placed somewhere else.

The College of Communications feels very strongly that oral communication is an essential component of communication in general education.

Dr. Glen Jones stopped by to thank the committee for their hard work and to let everyone know that he received the recommendation from the committee.

1. Accepts recommendation
2. Introducing the Faculty Center back on campus
3. Academic Quality – he is appointing a task force on this and would like this committee to be a part of the task force. What are the quality standards and how are we going to assess?

Josie Welsh discussed the following:

1. Critical Thinking correlates with everything
2. Communication – oral and written (verbal/nonverbal)
3. Global Issues & Social Sciences go together
4. Math & Science – go together
5. Health & Wellness stands alone

Dan Marburger asked the following: All degree programs must meet the state minimum core of 120 hours and must have 35 general education core courses. Does that mean that the COB has to meet 35 hours or can they be at 35-38 hours?

Rebecca Oliver asked Dr. Cooksey how many programs were looking at waivers? Dr. Cooksey indicated that it was about a handful.

The 35 hour state minimum core presents challenges in some areas:

 Engineering

 Nursing & Health Professions

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 Music

 Teacher Education – some BSE program

 Sciences – some challenges with the BSE program

Dan Marburger asked if there were some programs on campus that would not meet the 120 hours.

1. Adopt the State minimum core of 35 hours as General Education framework - 10 members indicated that they could live with 35 hours
2. Should we retain the current goals as they are now? – 1 member voted (Yes)

Interdependence #8 and Technology #4 goal were removed so we are down to 8 goals

1. Should we reduce the number of goals? – 10 voted Yes

Dr. Jerry Ball indicated that he felt that we should keep Health & Wellness.

Sue McLarry asked how many of the committee were ready to vote to go to 35 hours today – 10 Yes; 2 Abstain (Dan and Lance); 0 against

Need to go back and ask your college if Health & Wellness are important to ASU or not.

Sue McLarry asked Phyllis Pobst and David Levenbach if the Humanities & Social Sciences proposal is okay as is and it is.

Anyone with more than 35 hours needs to restructure their Gen Ed curriculum to the state minimum core of 35 hours.

Sue McLarry asked everyone to go back to their colleges – how will the core be configured (just categories, not specific courses) – look at goals with your college – will they stay as they are or change in any way.

Jeff Jenness will update the spreadsheet and send to Chris and Chris will send to the committee. Jeff also asked the committee members that if their college was not represented properly to send him the edits and he will get the updated spreadsheet out today. The final one he could get out by the end of the week.

Meeting will be held next week, October 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Chris Collins

Administrative Assistant to AVCAS