Gen Ed Committee Meeting

April 21, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Sue McLarry (NHP); Lynita Cooksey (AVCAA); Bill Humphrey (AG); Josie Welsh Assessment); Dan Marburger (BUS); Chris Harper (proxy for Marci Hayes - COM); Tom Adams (ED); Dale Miller (FA); Rebecca Oliver (Honors); Jerry Ball (HSS); David Levenbach (HSS); Tanja McKay (SCOM); Chris Collins (Secretary – AAR)

Absent: Rick Clifft (ENGR); Phyllis Pobst (HSS); Tim Norman (Military Science); Jeff Jenness (SCOM); 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 Dr. Humphrey to approve minutes as is. Second was made by Dr. Jerry Ball. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Dr. McLarry indicated to the committee that a recommendation needs to be made.

Tonja McKay commented that she and Josie Welsh talked with Ann Grippo and the MCAT is being changed. There needs to be a change in Biology to emphasize critical thinking. Biology of the Cell-Gen Ed Course-coordinate papers with upper level course to build up critical thinking - the faculty are to meet on this. Will need staff for grading papers. Reinforcement of writing skills. Tanja to send an email on this. Critical Analysis Thinking Test (CAT) – embed across curriculum.

Dr. Levenbach commented that the test is not based on content – just logic, multiple choice questions.

1. Stop using inappropriate measures of critical thinking/writing.
2. Assess at field level

Assessment to count as scholarly service.

Faculty are not to be held back from promotion.

Internet faculty vs. traditional in-class faculty.

What are faculty doing in the classroom, lot of time in classroom, extra things vs. someone just teaching and testing by testbank.

Rigorous course or course evaluations?

Make sure everything on syllabus is being taught (adjuncts) (i.e. 8 papers due but they only do 3)

Recommendations:

1. Scholarship for assessment

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1. Extra people for grading – not TA’s (Have English Grad Student Review the papers)
   1. Fully staffed writing center
   2. Require students to go – they won’t go voluntarily
   3. Writing more
   4. Criterion-E-writer (e-rater?)
   5. Use Blackboard Discussion Board – no cost to the University
   6. One minimum paper
2. Dr. Levenbach – department to develop their own measures. How courses tied to those objectives are being …..?

How students who came to us with associate degrees rate on critical thinking/writing vs. those home-grown students.

Comp I in high school vs. college classroom

May need to change courses assigned to Gen Ed to 120 hours.

Assessment is in major and department.

Criterion based or value added – committee chose criterion.

**Recommendations related to Critical Thinking/Writing**

1. Departments accountable/responsible for critical thinking and writing ability of their graduates
2. Assessment activities to count as scholarship in PRT
3. Reassignment time or stipend for Evaluation Research Leader ($5,000 stipend for reassignment – Melodie Philhours in COB and this needs to be funded)

“Assessment Scholar”

Best Practices of Ideas

Should we wait 2 years on critical thinking/writing?

Put in document about assessing student learning outcomes not faculty.

Dr. McLarry will send out to the committee by the first part of the week – please send input/feedback on this to her. She will give one week for responses from the date that she sends out.

No meeting next week (April 28, 2011).

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Task for next year (August) is to look at needing 120 hours. Are we going to keep the categories or going to State minimum core? Which goals do we want to assess?

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Collins

Assistant to AVCAS