General Education Council Meeting October 5, 2010

Present: Conrad Shumaker (Chair), Kim Eskola, Carrie Voss, Kondwani Phwandaphwanda, Kathy French, Roger Pauly, Rene Crow, Stephanie Vanderslice, Ed Powers, Lori Isom, Charles Watson, Hunter Phillips, Destiny Davis

Absent: William Friedman, Jim Deitrick (on sabbatical)

10/5/10 Meeting called to order - Conrad

Introduction of Hunter Phillips and Destiny Davis (SGA reps)

Motion to approve minutes from Sept. 7 meeting: Ed

Second: Kim E

Additions: Jim Dietrick wrote to ask that it be reflected in the minutes that he is absent on sabbatical.

Minutes approved – unanimous vote

(Notes) http://acts.adhe.edu/student transfer.aspx

1. Online lab issue-
   - Online labs inappropriate for major courses (opinion of UCA Chem., Bio., Physics departments)
   - Research suggests that online labs can be helpful, but should not be used as a substitution.
   - AR courses transfer- Tony Sitz, Jonathan Glenn, hands tied by * AR course transfer system: http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/academicaffairs/Pages/aaActs.aspx agreement by AR institutions supported by AR legislature & ADHE to accept certain courses that are transferred within AR state institutions
   - Nothing in this system notes whether the course is an online course.
   - Hot Springs National Park Community College proposes to offer two Associate’s degrees composed entirely of online courses.
   - We are required to accept associates degree as proof of completion of Gen Ed requirements.
   - Kim E. wonders if accepting online lab courses sets transfer students up for failure here at UCA?
   - (Conrad Responds) Berdie Eubanks has tried to set up a meeting with representatives from community colleges that we receive most students from; transf. students are a small # of our UCA pop., but high % of withdrawals.
   - General concerns (Ed, Kim E.) that quality of courses are not equivalent
   - “Standards” – catching online courses up in quality
   - How to define “lab” in terms of ADHE transfer system; Conrad suggests that we make a strong recommendation in favor of defining a “lab” as a hands-on learning experience (not just “including “ hands-on)
ADHE vs. State legislature as creators of Gen. Ed. language

Ed & Lori wonder if other 4-year colleges & universities are endorsing/accepting online lab components as equivalent to hands-on labs.

Hands-on labs should be more than just a “component” - Lori, should be fundamental

Conrad - statement from 3 departments could be foundation for a written resolution from the Gen Ed Council

Lori I & Rob Mauldin & Steve Runge) will develop a strong resolution to present to the council of Deans

Uphill battle for Nat Park?

ADHE has entrenched interest in getting AR students into educational institutions regardless of means? Discussion by ED, Lori, Conrad, Charles W., Roger P.

Education in “bad faith” - suggesting to students that the course is equivalent.

(Work with Ed Powers/ADHE? Focus groups? Data?) Ed. - data about transfer student persistence? (Conrad asks Carey to check on this data) - National Concerns?

SGA reps: Hunter P. had difficulty transferring from Lyon to UCA

Ed suggests that perhaps should advertise to students that they may not be getting a quality course if they take it online.

Roger: Community college intervention? Conrad: CBC world lit. we will not accept current world lit as transfer.

Larry Burns - student success symposium conversation on Gen. ED. & transfer student success.

Passed around: Table 27 - Full time FTE enrollments in online courses ADHE

Can’t change the law; change public opinion, become advocates for quality learning in AR.

2. Gen. Ed subcommittee (report) - Goals & objectives

“Leap” initiative as model for re-writing goals & objectives; particularly helpful in “values” section

AAC & U sponsors survey & analysis of universities,

Potential employers - employers actually want less specialization, more gen. ed.

Provost is supportive of LEAP according to Conrad.

UCA all depts... & colleges will be surveyed to find out what current requirements are in place for capstone projects/ thesis project?

Lori 1. Reports that she has received overwhelmingly positive (and lengthy) responses to the above (so far)

2. Assessment subcommittee report

Charles Watson has agreed to be chair of the Assessment subcommittee

Working to ensure that courses are being assessed.

John Glen & Jane Andis are digitizing original course & assessment proposals

Focus groups: Joe Candelosi from business will talk about focus groups cost; plan should be organized by the end of this Academic Year.

Charles Watson suggests looking at reports from outside reviewers – Gen Ed. Assessment needs real work.
• “Identity” of UCA degree? Strategic Planning conversation—as we learn what faculty and students think about UCA’s mission, we can incorporate those ideas, for example “student-centered” education into our work.

Watson motion to adjourn, Kathy F. seconds, Conrad adjourned