

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2009

I. Call to order

Conrad Shumaker called to order the regular meeting of the General Education Council at 1:42 PM on November 3, 2009, in the Director's Conference Room on the second floor of the library.

II. Attendees (as reported by Ellen Stengel)

The following persons were present:

Here are the attendees at the last meeting as recorded by Ellen:

Jim Deitrick

Ed Powers

Ellen Stengel

Stephen Feldman

Roger Pauly

William Friedman

Stephanie Vanderslice

Steve Ward

Conrad Shumaker

Sally Roden

The absentees:

Kathy French

Kim Eskola

Renee Le Beau-Ford

Charles Watson

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the preceding (October 13, 2009) meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes from the last meeting in the spring Term (recently recovered) were received without demurrals.

IV. Open issues

- a. **Assessment plan.** A motion to remove the prior version of the draft of the Assessment plan off the table was carried. A distribution of a draft with MAPP listed separately affirms the centrality of course-based assessment. With the following amendments the draft was approved:

- i. 60% to 50% on the last page
- ii. *freshmen* to *first year students* on the last page
- iii. *imbed* to *embed* on the last page
- iv. the word *Draft* was eliminated

The revised document will be sent to Jonathan Glenn and the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee

- b. GEC group on URSA - slight discussion
- c. Goals and objectives- slight discussion

V. New business

- a. We (along with all other groups on campus) are charged by the provost with answering the question: "What makes a UCA degree unique?" This was interpreted by the council as "What makes the UCA General Education program unique?"

Some proposed responses were

- i. Cluster classes
 - ii. Confluence classes
 - iii. Integrated program, not just a list of courses
 - iv. World cultures requirements
 - v. Global diversity on campus, e.g., international campus events, mingling with international students
 - vi. More humanities required than similar institutions
- b. It was stressed that faculty must teach general education courses as officially described, and that it was the responsibility of department heads to see that this is done.
 - c. The council noted that UCA needs to move away from using so many part-time teachers and to have a budget in order to carry out its GED mandates.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Shumaker adjourned the meeting at **2:35 PM**.

Minutes submitted by: William H. Friedman

Minutes approved by Conrad Shumaker