

General Education Council Minutes

November 1, 2011

Members Present: Conrad Shumaker (Chair), Jeff Allender (GEOG), Rene Crow (ECSE), Destiny Davis (SGA), Jim Deitrick (PHIL), Kim Eskola (KPED), Lori Isom (CHEM), Joe McGarrity (EFIRM), Renee Lebeau-Ford (Ex-officio, LIB), Carl Olds (FILM), Kondwani Phwandaphwanda (MUS), Ed Powers (SOC), Mary Beth Sullivan (PSCI), Stephanie Vanderslice (WRTG), Charles Watson (MATH), Clay Arnold (ex-officio, Dean of Undergraduate Studies)

Members Absent: none

AGENDA for Nov. 1 Meeting:

1. Approval of minutes from October meeting
2. Representation for Honors College on the GEC (see attachment)
3. Director of Academic Assessment as ex-officio member of GEC (see attachment)
4. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Goals and Objectives (draft of mission statement and general learning outcomes will be sent)
 - b. Assessment

1. Approval of October minutes: minutes were approved by acclamation

2. Honors College Representation on the GEC: Allender moved to re-open the previously tabled discussion on Honors Representation on the GEC.

- we discussed several drafts of the resolution that were made, discussing who would be eligible to vote and serve
- we agreed to look at the newest draft
- some discussion centered around the few students served by the Honors College, saying that the GEC was chosen to deal with specific pressing issues on campus, and this was not the right time to propose membership changes
- others pointed out Honors' expertise in some of these issues (particularly assessment)
- GEC membership is ultimately decided by Faculty Senate
- **MOTION** to call the question – motion to recommend Honors addition to GEC fails by 7-5 vote

3. Ex-officio membership for the Director of Academic Assessment: The GEC then took up a proposal to re-establish an ex-officio membership for the university's Director of Assessment.

- Discussion was opened with the desire of HLC to have the Director of Assessment available as a necessary resource to the GEC's work
- Dr. Arnold indicated that the need for communication with assessment will only grow in the future and that the formalization of this link would be useful for GEC

- **MOTION** to call the question – motion to recommend that the Director of Assessment be added to GEC passes 11-1

5. Subcommittee Reports: Committees are working diligently on their charges

Goals and Objectives: Powers reported

- timeline for implementation was being finalized
- discussion was taking place regarding a redefined mission statement and goals/objectives
- indecision about how the program will be structured in the future
- the need to concentrate on specific learning outcomes in order to formulate the sense of mission
- the path for this discussion in the spring would move from the subcommittee to the GEC as a whole and then to campus-wide discussion

Assessment: Watson reported

- working on the course evaluation matrix for 16 Gen Ed courses, followed by expansion into others
- Focus groups led by Dr. Bartos in College of Business looking at student perceptions of Gen Ed program (2 colleges, Business and Liberal Arts) being done Nov. 16 @ 9am using 10 students from each college selected by chairs, deans, and faculty (=serious, thoughtful students)
- Doing further focus groups (\$ currently allows for 2 colleges per year)

Meeting was adjourned - Next Meeting will be December 6