

General Education Council Minutes

February 7, 2012

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), Carl Olds (FILM), Kondwani Phwandaphwanda (MUS), Ed Powers (SOC), Mary Beth Sullivan (PSCI), Joe Webb (SGA), Charles Watson (MATH)

Members Absent: Renee Lebeau-Ford (Ex-officio, LIB), Clay Arnold (ex-officio, Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Stephanie Vanderslice (WRTG)

AGENDA for Feb. 7 Meeting:

1. Approval of minutes from the December meeting
2. Information items
 - a. World Cultures proposal passed by Council of Deans
 - b. Proficiency Profile endorsed by Council of Deans
3. Mission and Outcomes draft

1. Approval of December minutes: MOTION to approve minutes (Crow), SECOND by Eskola, minutes were approved by acclamation

2. Information Items:

Council heard from Dr. Shumaker about the GEC's World Cultures proposal recently passed by the Council of Deans

- students can now take 9 hours from the whole list of World Cultural Traditions courses
- the courses will now be listed as one big group

Council heard from Dr. Shumaker about updates to assessment plan GEC passed in 2009

- GEC recommended the use of Proficiency Profile to place assessment into regional perspective (but was put on hold because of monetary concerns)
- Proficiency Profile is an exam that measures writing, reading, critical thinking, quantitative literacy – 40 minute online abbreviated version (writing sample adds 30 minutes)
- There is now money to implement this exam – the question is how to implement
- Identify specific applicable courses and work them into those? Require all seniors to take it?
- Testing Center will administer to a select group now and more students as we go
- GEC should be thinking about alternatives if we want them
- Pre-testing is also being done on freshmen vs. seniors (seniors Spring 12, incoming freshmen Fall 12)

3. Subcommittee Reports:

GOALS/OBJECTIVES SUBCOMMITTEE:

- Council of Deans has asked GEC not to accept new course proposals until we have mission and outcomes revision complete
- Dean Hattlestad wants us to boil statement down to the ESSENCE of the document and to use it to identify our CORE VALUES
- Committee has identified three goals – Inquiry, Communication, and Living
- Deitrick raised some concerns about GEC's response to the HLC report, saying that we need to involve students and faculty in the creation process more directly
- Powers replied that the committee is drafting a proposal to recommend to the rest of campus in the following way: 1) GEC takes bets shot at identifying goals; 2) Faculty discussion on GEC document; 3) GEC gathers faculty input and revises; 4) Faculty Senate gives stamp of approval
- Powers summed up by saying that GEC's job was to give faculty something concrete to discuss
- Questions were raised about GEC having a "tradition" but not an "identity." Where is the long-term visionary coherence, rather than operationalizing what we have
- Committee identified three foundations in document: Inquiry, Communication, and Living
- Subcommittee will boil document down to essence

Meeting concluded with the motion to meet again in three weeks – Feb 28 at X-period

Meeting was adjourned - Next Meeting will be February 7