

Minutes
General Education Council
Tuesday, April 5, 2011

The University of Central Arkansas General Education Council met on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, in the Conference Room of Torreyson Library. Council Chair, Dr. Conrad Shumaker, called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

The following members attended: Conrad Shumaker, chair, Destiny Davis, Lori Isom, Roger Pauly, Kathy French, Kondwandi Phwandaphwanda, and Charles Watson. Stephanie Vanderslice joined the meeting in progress. Others attending were Provost Lance Grahn and Renee LeBeau-Ford.

At the beginning of the meeting there was no quorum present, so action items were deferred. Stephanie Vanderslice joined the meeting in progress.

The Chair provided the following information items:

- Two members have terms that expire at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year and Carey Voss will not be returning in the fall 2011. There will be three positions to be elected this spring. Members were encouraged to nominate individuals who have a genuine interest in the General Education Program.
- General Education will have a new Web page generated through Dr. Jonathan Glenn's Office. The focus will be to assure that all activities of the Council are public. The Chair also noted that links to specific sites will be included for ease of tracking information linked to General Education.
- Concern was expressed regarding the late nomination and placement of student members of the Council. Also, there was some discussion as to the qualification for the student membership. The Chair observed that the student representative did not have to be a member of the SGA, but must be appointed by SGA.
- A brief summary of the Chair's recent meeting with the Provost. Items included agreement on the proposed General Education assessment timeline, with some minor revisions; an update on the Goals and Objectives sub-committee and proposed skills mapping; the possibility of using capstone courses or portfolios to measure student performance for assessment; the General Education budget and the need for clarification of the General Education assessment budget; the possibility of Enrollment Management taking on the implementation of National Survey of Student Engagement data which is administered at least every three years and a tentative plan to hire a Director of Assessment, a new position that would coordinate assessment responsibilities across the university.

There was a discussion of the process for review of data and certification of General Education courses, which grew out of sessions attended by Council representatives at the recent assessment conference. It was noted that course validation should signify that the department where the course is housed is assessing its course to ensure that students meet stated course objectives based on reported data that would be reviewed by the Council Assessment Committee. Courses that were deemed to not meet the expected result would be subject to further review and evaluation.

There was also a discussion about tying certification to departmental five-year program reviews. The issue of released time for conducting the assessment was considered. Provost Grahn noted that in this

era of tight budgets, departments will have to be creative in the ways personnel are assigned, but in general no additional funds would be available for released time or additional staffing for course/program evaluation.

The idea of professional development for faculty who conduct course/program assessments was discussed. Kathy French provided the name of one of the presenters from the assessment conference that would be an excellent resource to help with course/program assessment.

The Chair indicated that new discussions regarding the writing courses would be forthcoming. A draft of a survey will be circulated before the May meeting. One of the questions reflects the role and place of development writing skills in the General Education experience for students.

There was also some discussion regarding new legislation from the Arkansas General Assembly focused on standardizing the course number system across state supported colleges and universities. Also, included in the legislation was the reduction of hours for graduation to a standard 120 hours. Concern was expressed for how this legislation would impact UCA's General Education requirements.

With the quorum present, minutes from the March meeting were considered for review and approval. Roger Pauly moved adoption, seconded by Stephanie Vanderslice. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

These minutes were recorded and transcribed by Dr. Charles D. Watson in the absence of the secretary.