

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2009

I. Call to order

Conrad Shumaker called to order the regular meeting of the General Education Council at 2 PM on September 1, 2009, in the Director's Conference Room on the second floor of the library.

II. Attendees (as reported by Conrad Shumaker)

The following persons were present:

Capacity	Member	Term Expires
Director of General Education	Conrad Shumaker	Permanent
General Education Representatives		
Philosophy	Jim Deitrick	2011
English	Ed Powers	2012
Writing and Speech	Ellen Stengel	2010
Music	Stephen Feldman	2010
Health Sciences	Kathy French	2011
College Representatives		
Liberal Arts	Roger Pauly (Sociology)	2011
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	Charles Watson	2012
Business Administration	William Friedman (MIS)	2011
Fine Arts and Communication	Stephanie Vanderslice (Writing)	2012
Education	Steve Ward (TLT)	2010
Student Representative	Cody Wilson	2010
Torreyson Library Designee	Renee Le Beau-Ford	Permanent
Dean of Undergraduate Studies	Sally Roden	Permanent

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting (last term) were misplaced, hence not read. This term, Bill Friedman prepared the September minutes and agreed to alternate with Ellen Stengel in preparing future minutes.

IV. Open issues

- a) Work on our goals and objectives will continue. There will be a Goals and Objectives Subcommittee.
- b) Conrad Shumaker informed the Council that he had asked all departments to report what they had done on assessment, but not all replied. Dr. Shumaker distributed a draft Academic Assessment Plan to those present. A GED Assessment subcommittee was formed. The members are Bill Friedman; Charles Watson; Roger Pauly; Kathy French; Stephen Feldman; and Steve Ward

- a) The status of our use of the MAPP (Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress) exam is still unclear. Dr. Shumaker hopes to get an abbreviated version in place that will include a written essay. Details will be worked out, but the most likely scenario will be that all students take it in the last semester of the junior year or in the first semester of the senior year. The exam will probably take 1.5 hours.

V. New business

- a) Ellen Stengel informed the Council that the Writing Department has proposed moving 1320 to the sophomore year, but that proposal will have to be considered by the GEC as part of an ongoing examination of writing in general education. The Council discussed standards for writing-intensive courses in addition to straight writing courses. A group was proposed to discuss writing in all disciplines.
- b) As part of an effort to further integrate the general education program, Conrad Shumaker is teaching a "confluence course" along with Sarah Charton and Jayme Stone, in which students from 3 different courses (World Literature, World History, and American History) will meet together 4 times during the semester to look at key issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. This course is designed to serve as a pilot to see whether such courses might be used to enhance integrative learning in general education.
- c) Bill Friedman proposed setting up a website for posts of articles and other matters of interest to the Council.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Shumaker adjourned the meeting at **2:30 PM**.

Minutes submitted by: William H. Friedman

Minutes approved by: Conrad Shumaker