

## General Education Council Meeting October 5, 2010

Present: Conrad Shumaker (Chair), Kim Eskola, Carrie Voss, Kondwani Phwandaphwanda, Kathy French, Roger Pauly, Rene Crow, Stephanie Vanderslice, Ed Powers, Lori Isom, Charles Watson, Hunter Phillips, Destiny Davis

Absent: William Friedman, Jim Deitrick (on sabbatical)

10/5/10 Meeting called to order- Conrad

Introduction of Hunter Phillips and Destiny Davis (SGA reps)

Motion to approve minutes from Sept. 7 meeting: Ed

Second: Kim E

Additions: Jim Dietrick wrote to ask that it be reflected in the minutes that he is absent on sabbatical.

Minutes approved – unanimous vote

(Notes) [http://acts.adhe.edu/student\\_transfer.aspx](http://acts.adhe.edu/student_transfer.aspx)

### 1. Online lab issue-

- Online labs inappropriate for major courses (opinion of UCA Chem., Bio., Physics departments)
- Research suggests that online labs can be helpful, but should not be used as a substitution.
- AR courses transfer- Tony Sitz , Jonathan Glenn, hands tied by \* AR course transfer system: [http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/academicaffairs/Pages/aa\\_acts.aspx](http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/academicaffairs/Pages/aa_acts.aspx) agreement by AR institutions supported by AR legislature & ADHE to accept certain courses that are transferred within AR state institutions
- Nothing in this system notes whether the course is an online course.
- Hot Springs National Park Community College proposes to offer two Associate's degrees composed entirely of online courses.
- We are required to accept associates degree as proof of completion of Gen Ed requirements.
- Kim E. wonders if accepting online lab courses sets transfer students up for failure here at UCA?
- (Conrad Responds) Berdie Eubanks has tried to set up a meeting with representatives from community colleges that we receive most students from; transf. students are a small # of our UCA pop., but high % of withdrawals.
- General concerns (Ed, Kim E.) that quality of courses are not equivalent
- "Standards" – catching online courses up in quality
- How to define "lab" in terms of ADHE transfer system; Conrad suggests that we make a strong recommendation in favor of defining a " lab" as a hands- on learning experience (not just "including " hands-on)

- ADHE vs. State legislature as creators of Gen. Ed. language
  - Ed & Lori wonder if other 4 year colleges & universities are endorsing/accepting online lab components as equivalent to hands – on-labs.
  - Hands- on labs should be more than just a “component” Lori, should be fundamental
  - Conrad- statement from 3 departments could be foundation for a written resolution from the Gen Ed Council
  - Lori I( & Rob Mauldin & Steve Runge) will develop a strong resolution to present to the council of Deans
  - Uphill battle for Nat Park?
  - ADHE has entrenched interest in getting AR students into educational institutions regardless of means? Discussion by ED, Lori, Conrad, Charles W., Roger P.
  - Education in “bad faith”- suggesting to students that the course is equivalent.
  - (Work with Ed Powers/ADHE? Focus groups? Data?) Ed. –data about transfer student persistence? ( Conrad asks Carey to check on this data)- National Concerns?
  - SGA reps: Hunter P. had difficulty transferring from Lyon to UCA
  - Ed suggests that perhaps/ should advertise to students that they may not be getting a quality course if they take it online.
  - Roger: Community college intervention? Conrad: CBC world lit. we will not accept current world lit as transfer.
  - Larry Burns- student success symposium conversation on Gen. ED. & transfer student success.
  - Passed around: Table 27- Full time FTE enrollments in online courses ADHE
  - Can’t change the law; change public opinion, become advocates for quality learning in AR.
2. Gen. Ed subcommittee (report)--Goals & objectives
- “Leap” initiative as model for re-writing goals & objectives; particularly helpful in “values” section
  - AAC & U sponsors survey & analysis of universities,
  - Potential employers- employers actually want less specialization, more gen. ed.
  - Provost is supportive of LEAP according to Conrad.
  - UCA all depts... & colleges will be surveyed to find out what current requirements are in place for capstone projects/ thesis project?
  - Lori 1. Reports that she has received overwhelmingly positive ( and lengthy) responses to the above (so far)
2. Assessment subcommittee report
- Charles Watson has agreed to be chair of the Assessment subcommittee
  - Working to ensure that courses are being assessed.
  - John Glen & Jane Andis are digitizing original course & assessment proposals
  - Focus groups: Joe Candelosi from business will talk about focus groups cost; plan should be organized by the end of this Academic Year.
  - Charles Watson suggests looking at reports from outside reviewers – Gen Ed. Assessment needs real work.

- “Identity” of UCA degree? Strategic Planning conversation—as we learn what faculty and students think about UCA’s mission, we can incorporate those ideas, for example “student-centered” education into our work.

Watson motion to adjourn, Kathy F. seconds , Conrad adjourned