

General Education Council Minutes

October 4, 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), Carl Olds (FILM), Ed Powers (SOC), Mary Beth Sullivan (PSCI), Stephanie Vanderslice (WRTG), Charles Watson (MATH),

Members Absent: Renee Lebeau-Ford (Ex-officio, LIB), Kondwani Phwandaphwanda (MUS), Clay Arnold (ex-officio, Dean of Undergraduate Studies)

Recognition of new GEC members: Jim Deitrick, Mary Beth Sullivan, Carl Olds, Jeff Allender, Joe McGarrity, Desiny Davis.

AGENDA for Oct. 4 Meeting:

1. Approval of minutes from September meeting
2. Dean Maurice Lee on the GEC's role in the response to the HLC report
3. Ex officio membership for the Director of Assessment
4. Honors College representation
5. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Assessment
 - b. Goals and Objectives

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

2. Dean Lee: Council heard from Dean Maurice Lee, Dean of College of Liberal Arts, and one of the responders to the HLC report

- His first comment is that we don't have enough clarity in the results of the Gen Ed curriculum
- He also addressed the diversity response to the report. Noted that the Affirmative Action committee hasn't met since 2001, perhaps the university needs an Office of Institutional Diversity.
- He recommended a clear statement about what Gen Ed is. He pointed toward the HLC website monitoring report and hoped for ongoing assessment communication
- He noted the importance of faculty buy-in for Gen Ed assessment. The GEC should be instrumental in identifying goals/criteria we will use to measure course effectiveness, and listing these goals in course syllabi
- Discussion ensued about faculty fear of assessment. Isom remarked that we are not assessing individual faculty; we are assessing PROGRAMS. Vanderslice also talked about the recent benefits of assessment in WRTG 1310 and 1320.
- Dean Lee fielded a question about how Gen Ed program contributes to diversity. Dean Lee talked about not only the diversity embedded in the course material, but how our courses

prompt students to reach out proactively into the community. He identified two ways we should be looking at diversity: 1) being aware of the presence of the diverse populations we serve and who take these courses; and 2) being aware of diverse ways of perceiving the world

3. Ex-officio membership for the Director of 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 question of why the GEC needed another member, because the Dean of Undergraduate Studies is already represented on the GEC.
- There was discussion about polling faculty for input via online request, but Director Shumaker noted that any change to GEC membership would be made by the Faculty Senate, which composes the GEC.

4. Honors College Representation on the GEC: The question of Honors College representation was then addressed. Discussion began about the previous resolution to add an Honors representative to the GEC.

- Deitrick noted the narrow body of students served by the Honors College
- **MOTION** to table the resolution – passes 6-3

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

Director Shumaker urged the GEC to continue the discussion about GEC inclusion via email, so that we could give an up/down vote at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned - Next Meeting will be November 1