

Kim's Notes

1:45 pm November 2, 2010

Minutes

Stephanie 1st

Ed 2nd

Agenda Item

1. Proposal by Nat. Park C. College online labs- hands on lab exp.

- Lori asked to draft a resolution in support of CNSM's concerns that the university's transfer of lab courses require majority hands- on experience

Ed moves / Stephanie seconds } discussion

- Bill believed language might be strengthened in "resolution"- "majority"??
- ED is concerned about language, too, & would prefer strengthening, but not sure about Bill's suggested amendment

Gen Ed Council November Late

- "majority" discussion"
- Ed, Roger, Bill, Kim
- Percentage?? (90% of labs must be hands-on)?
- Others: investigation?

Ed – context of resolution is to lend our support to the evidence that is already in existence; word "majority" is clear enough for the context of this recommendation
(Aside- Does National Park have science lab buildings)

"Majority "suggests more than half of experiences

Charles by adopting this, what we are doing is supporting CSNM's efforts, because what we/they understand we can't change the law?

Conrad Law required "laboratory" ADHE persuaded to define "laboratory" in these terms.

Since the ADHE has not defined "laboratory" experience, we feel we should support CSNM's requirement & request that ADHE affirm lab as requiring majority of hands on

Ed- are we creating a requirement that goes that goes against state law?

Charles W that's what I'm concerned about, too. (Requirement that goes against state law)

Conrad I will support the case as necessary. The law says we have to accept courses that are part of the ACTS, but it doesn't define "laboratory." We're simply asking for a particular definition of the term.

Ed Do we want to support CSNM or / ask ADHE to simply affirm/ define lab as requiring majority hands on experiences.

11/2 Gen. Ed Council

Conrad revision- should both support CSNM & ask for ADHE to define laboratory experiences (share a concern)

Resolved- Conrad reads revised "Resolved" section:

General Education Council Resolution Concerning Online Laboratory Course Components

WHEREAS science is fundamentally experiential in nature and practice; and

WHEREAS simulations cannot provide for the development of necessary laboratory skills; and

WHEREAS simulations cannot provide opportunities to encounter and to develop the skills to persevere through in-lab, real time collaboration and experimental trial and error; and

WHEREAS professional science accreditation organizations require that while virtual laboratories may complement, such online experiences may not replace, hands-on laboratories; and

WHEREAS a stated purpose of General Education at the University of Central Arkansas is to "help students develop intellectual skills, practical skills, and emotional and aesthetic sensitivities"; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the General Education Council fully shares the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics' concern about online laboratories and supports the college's recommendation that any science course with a laboratory component proposed to be accepted as transfer credit must include a majority of hands-on, real time laboratory experiences for the student.

No further discussion

Vote – passed unanimously

Goals & objectives subcommittee report: (by Conrad) Ed wonders if there will be a chair of this committee? Draw straws?

“Knowledge” component revisions almost done; we will present this info soon.

“Skills” – “in written communication” being revised

“Values” section will be based on LEAP initiative language

Capstone courses may be tied into Gen Ed courses; shows that Gen Ed is a four-year experience, ties in w/ majors

- Most majors include/ require some sort of cumulative capstone project
- Conrad- aside: student members? Will you serve on goals/ obj. & Assessment subcommittees?
- Destiny Davis- Goals & obj.
- Hunter Phillips- Assessment
- Assessment subcommittee report:
 - (by Charles W)
 - Has not met since last GEC meeting
 - Work of assessment committee? (context)

(Charles asks permission to ramble a bit....)

Charles: My assessment experience arises primarily from the K-12 environment. What we’re doing here doesn’t seem terribly different. I’ve been doing some research, & I’ve found one excellent resource. Assessing General Education Programs by Mary J. Allen book @ 2006 www.ankerpub.com

Charles W. continues:

Perhaps we could get copies of this book (similar or other)

UCA needs a more diverse, thought out process for assessing general education excerpt from 2010 accreditation

Report due in (2012); seems like a long time from now, but there is a great deal of work/ collaboration to be done

Trying to generate a timeline, working backwards from the 2012 due date.

Subcommittee will “divide & conquer”- giving out individual assignments to research different types of possible assessment

Collaboration & structural sensitivity, willingness to be flexible are essential

Conrad – almost finished scanning & uploading original Gen Ed Course proposals!

You will be able to go to my courses/groups/ & take a look at the original objectives & plans for assessment/ compare with current reality of courses

Roger- HLC complaint- no “overall” assessment plan for Gen Eds.

Conrad- AAUP conference on assessment March 3-5, 2011

Provost supportive? Conrad wants a team of GEC members to attend

Kathy F thinks there should be a good argument for this!

Charles- administration has asked (**GEC**)/ (**Someone? Who?**) To submit a budget for assessment?

Conrad: Honors college Representation on GEC?

Ex officio non-voting HCOL rep?

(Next meeting) Motion to include HCOL rep?

They teach 4 courses that count as Gen Ed, but not explicitly, traditionally- recognized as Gen Eds. (have never gone through GEC council) because of this, are they eligible to run?

Do they represent a large enough # of faculty to warrant inclusion as a voting entity? At least.

Ellen Stengel brought this up in the past (Roger wanted to know)

Roger- do we have recourse if their courses don't meet our objectives? Conrad; “yes”

- Adjourn

11-2 GEC Attendance

Bill Friedman

Kondwani P.

Destiny Davis

Hunter Phillips

Stephanie Vandenslice

Ed Powers

Roger P.

Kathy French

Charles Watson

Carey Voss

Kim Eskola

- Jim Dietrick (absent due to sabbatical)