

# General Education Council Minutes

December 6, 2011

**Members Present:** Conrad Shumaker (Chair), Rene Crow (ECSE), Destiny Davis (SGA), Kim Eskola (KPED), Lori Isom (CHEM), Joe McGarrity (EFIRM), Carl Olds (FILM), Kondwani Phwandaphwanda (MUS), Ed Powers (SOC), Mary Beth Sullivan (PSCI), Joe Webb (SGA)

**Members Absent:** Renee Lebeau-Ford (Ex-officio, LIB), Clay Arnold (ex-officio, Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Jeff Allender (GEOG), Jim Deitrick (PHIL), Stephanie Vanderslice (WRTG), Charles Watson (MATH)

**Recognition of new GEC members:** Joe Webb (SGA)

## **AGENDA for Dec. 6 Meeting:**

1. Approval of minutes from November 1 meeting (see attachment)
2. Update on HLC Response
3. Subcommittee reports:
  - a. Goals and Objectives
  - b. Assessment

**1. Approval of November minutes:** MOTION to approve minutes (Powers), SECOND by Sullivan, minutes were approved by acclamation

**2. Update on HLC Response:** Council heard from Dr. Shumaker about the GEC's response to the report of the Higher Learning Commission

- First, the GEC is responding well to the HLC recommendations
- Priorities for the GEC should be the formulation of a Mission Statement and Essential Learning Outcomes, so that Assessment outcomes could be specified
- We need a Strategic Plan to provide a direction for the next five years of General Education

## **3. Subcommittee Reports:**

GOALS/OBJECTIVES SUBCOMMITTEE:

- New Goals document worked on and passed around the subcommittee
- Subcommittee likes the mission statement particularly
- Then the document builds a set of foundations around the mission statement, detailing outcomes in Effective Communication, Learning, and Living
- There was discussion about whether the foundational elements should be prioritized. Powers indicated that each are important in and of themselves, and the document seeks to show how all Gen Ed courses utilize each of the areas

- Once this document is approved, the Gen Ed curriculum will need to be reviewed according to the overarching values indicated by the Goals and Objectives
- Powers will send electronic copy to the rest of the subcommittee. It is a draft only and we will submit comments to be discussed
- A new logo and name branding will come later

#### ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE:

- The subcommittee report was sent to Shumaker from Watson
- Wrapping up assessment of 16 Gen Ed courses
- 2 new forms soon to be posted on the Gen Ed website: form for reporting Gen Ed data and a form for reporting changes in assessment plan
- Now we will have a departmental process for assessing courses
- Student focus groups taking place on Friday, December 9. 10-11 students from the College of Liberal Arts and 10 from College of Business. There will be no audio/video because of concerns about willingness to talk, but there will be a grad student notetaker in the session. The GEC will get the notes plus a facilitator interpretation from the group

Meeting concluded with the reminder that we need to create and communicate the goals of the GE program to students, then to develop training for advisors and instructors

SGA representative Davis pointed to a recent student survey that indicated the student view of the program to be impersonal and a rule/requirement to meet. She said that students responded that the courses had no connection to “what I want to do.”

**Meeting was adjourned - Next Meeting will be February 7**