

General Education Council

February 25, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.

MU Roe R. Cross

Minutes

PRESENT: Joan Brewer, James Costello, Heidi Hamilton, Brian Hollenbeck, Steve Lovett, Sheryl Lidzy, Kathy Landwehr, Neil Luo, Lynette, Anna and Kalyan Chakraborty

ABSENT: Jo Kord and Kate Dorian

Approval of Minutes: The February 11 meeting minutes were approved.

Results of “What do you want Wednesday” survey: Lidzy distributed the surveys that the students done on “What do you want Wednesday” results. The Council discussed the surveys. The sample was small, convenience, random, and it is not clear what conclusions were drawn

Approved Technology Course in the Discipline: Lidzy received a request from the Math department requesting the addition of an Approved Technology Course to the list of options and updated documentation was distributed, including new/deleting outdated information. This information was provided for the council’s usage as extraneous to the catalog (not included in the online catalog, for public consumption).

AAC&U conference update: American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) provided a plethora of information, which is available on the aacu.org website, which is referenced in the HLC Self-Study. One item mentioned throughout the HLC document is the Liberal Education and America’s Promise Essential Learning Outcomes (LEAP) goals, which includes 6 general goals, which are similar to the six general education learning goals that were derived by the faculty and we have posted on our General Education images (mentioned below). Our goals align with the AAC&U LEAP Essential Learning outcomes intentionally.

Through the information Lidzy gathered at the conference, she advocated conducting conversations with incoming students about “*What does it mean to be an educated person in the 21st century?*” This will open the conversation and direct them in their knowledge about general education, instill core academic skills, provide a classic liberal arts education, and promote personal and social well-being. The council will pursue opportunities for creating these conversations, open forums, in the fall, perhaps during freshman orientation.

Update on General Education images: Lidzy followed up the Gen Ed images and informed the Council that the posters were prepared and would be distributed to all Gen Ed classrooms. A thank you card was signed for the Deans office for funding the posters.

Other: HLC Meeting: The council is scheduled to meet with the HLC Consultant on Monday, March 2 at 10 am for the Mock visit to prepare for the actual HLC visit (March 23-25). In preparation for the HLC visit, Brewer suggested we be prepared to discuss how general education has impacted student learning; instruction in the classroom; and provide examples of

student learning influenced by assessment decisions. It was mentioned that our 2004 HLC report showed a lack of a comprehensive general education data assessment plan. Since that time we have implement a plan, including: CAAP; linkage studies; internal/external surveys; curriculum mapping; and course embedded assessments. We know we need to become better at it. We also lacked a data management system and we have implemented Campus Labs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11 in the Roe R. Cross Room.