

General Education Program Assessment
Steering Committee
Minutes
March 21, 2019
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

1. The February 25, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. Review of the memorandum proposal for the GEAT IV 2020 charge. The GEAS reviewed the charge for the upcoming year's GEAT emphasis. In concluding the goal level assessments, GE Goal 5: Be able to think critically and analytically about an issue, an idea, or a problem will be assessed. This will complete the assessment of the six General Education goals. In addition, an external environment scan will be the focus of the GEAT with a four-part approach. 1) We will research the agenda and dialogue occurring in professional organizations relative to general education to gain an understanding of the national direction, currency, and strategies affiliated with general education programming. 2) We will study the high school curriculum to gain understanding of the college-bound platform with the goal of removing curricular redundancies and to better serve ESU students. 3) We will study employer perspectives on the preparedness of our graduates related to foundational and transferable skills that are necessary for success in the current employment environment. 4) Finally, we will identify how other institutions are defining and assessing their general education programs to ensure that we are current and competitive.
 - a. Review the list of prospective GEAT members (Jo and Rich)
 - i. It is preferable to have one GEAT member from each of the 4 colleges/schools and an additional person to focus on assessing GE Goal 5.
 - ii. Individuals identified for Rich to contact initially are Steve Lovett (BUS) or Carol Lucy (BUS), Basil Kessler (TTC), Cynthia Kane (ULA), Ken Thompson (LAS), and Deborah Hann (LAS). Other potential selections are Kevin Kienholz (LAS) and Darla Mallein (LAS).
 - b. Identify other key individuals for the group
It was also deemed important to network with individuals who are friends of ESU to capture a variety of information including graduates, alumni, and employers. Some networking options included Tyler Curtis (Alumni Association) and June Coleman (Career Services).

3. Timeline for identifying confirming membership in the GEAT (chairs/faculty approval). Rich was going to reach out to the individuals to ask if they are willing to serve and report back to the GEAS
4. Update on GEAT II Presentation at JCCC on April 26, 2019
Mallory Koci, Deborah Hann, Rich Sleezer, and JoLanna Kord will present the findings from the GEAT II – 2018 project report including the changes which have been made based on the recommendations of the report.
5. Update on GEAT III Progress
 - a. Faculty Survey for Goal 4 has been completed and the results have been shared with GEAT-Goal 4. The team is now analyzing the results and dividing up the responsibilities for the final report which is due to Rich and Jo on May 30th.
 - b. Faculty Survey for Goal 6 has been completed and the results have been shared with GEAT-Goal 6. The team is now analyzing the results and dividing up the responsibilities for the final report which is due to Rich and Jo on May 30th.
6. Open Discussion – The GEAS had an extended conversation about how the project from the GEAT IV-2020 and the other previous years (2016, 2017, and 2018) project reports would be used to impact substantial change to the General Education program. We focused critical conversation around the outcomes of the 5-year assessment cycle and whether or not we would have shown that this process was effective. It was noted that before we began this process, we knew nothing of how the General Education goals and objectives were embedded in the curriculum and now we have a very accurate set of data that shows which courses align with the GE Goals, the types of learning experiences students are engaging in and how student learning is being measured. With this assessment knowledge, we are only missing the environmental scan. With all four years of GEAT assessment knowledge gathered, we will be able to know where we are at and where we want to be or should be setting our future direction. The following points were deemed important.
 - a. An executive summary for all of the GEAT projects (Years 1-4) would be written by Rich and Jo. This executive report should provide a detailed outline for how the general education program will evolve and re-brand over time.
 - b. Creating landmark change is the work of the faculty, and the information from the executive summary and GEAT project reports should provide substantiated evidence for faculty to understand both the importance of the work to be done and the expectations for adopting changes needing to occur.
 - c. The 2nd five-year assessment cycle will begin in academic year 2021, with an inclusive and comprehensive general education assessment plan in place that can be followed regardless of who is leading the charge.

Finally, the course level outcomes based assessment practices being completed for all general education courses continues to improve the student learning experience across the board. Since, 2014 this has proven to be an effective practice in improving student learning and success. We have a comprehensive set of assessment data metrics evidencing this improvement. We have policy in place that ensures that faculty are expected to provide continuous improvements in student learning for their assigned

general education courses. This fundamental approach is critical to sustaining and improving the General Education program overall.

7. Meeting Adjourn at 12:30 p.m.