

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REVISED MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2012
Evald 305

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

Members Present: Stefanie Bluemle, Anne Earel, Mike Egan, Janene Finley, Meg Gillette, Alli Haskill, Carrie Hough, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: SELECTING CHAIR FOR 2012-13

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson was elected to be chair of the General Education Committee for 2012-2013.

AGENDA ITEM II: DISCUSSION

Margaret Farrar will send out a short summer reading list to the committee members. If anyone has suggestions for additional readings, please forward them to Margaret.

For next year, Lendol suggested discussing ways in which Gen Ed can become a better committee. Members on the Gen Ed committee are given much responsibility, yet likely do not keep up with the literature about general education. Lendol discovered that there is a Journal of General Education, and asked how many other people on the committee knew that journal existed. The task of vetting proposals could be streamlined by the committee in order have more time dedicated to other conversations. Augustana faculty teaching general education courses could be invited to meet with the committee to discuss problems/issues with their (i.e.) LSFY course, creating an intellectual experience for both the teacher and for the committee. The committee benefits by keeping abreast with problems faculty are facing. The faculty may benefit by not going through a hoop-jumping exercise when their proposals are put through for approval.

The committee discussed that a group of perhaps three to vet proposals would be preferable to only one person charged with that task. It was suggested that this group could meet outside of the weekly gen ed meeting time. One way to assign tasks is different people evaluate different suffixes; however before this can be done, rubrics must be created by taking outcomes we have and turning them into something to be used as an evaluation tool.

Meg Gillette liked the idea of having faculty come in to discuss issues. It would be interesting to her to know how people feel about Augie Reads, LSFY, and general education problems. How would people be invited without making it an onerous task?

Margaret Farrar said there is a lot of room on faculty committees to take more leadership, to come up with their own agenda. This is important.

Lendol also would like a discussion about Augustana's general education program and what story we tell about it to outside audiences.

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson commented that President Bahls is talking about coming up with the next strategic plan. It would be interesting for Gen Ed to have a voice in that. Margaret Farrar agreed and believes the President would want that.

Margaret Farrar was asked if general education programs have outside reviews. She indicated that they do not, but it is interesting to think about. Should the Honors program get reviewed as well? It is worth exploring. Margaret mentioned that if there are programs that would be of interest to the committee, then arrangements should be made for them to visit.

Rowen informed the committee that it will meet from 4:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesdays in Evald 305.

AGENDA ITEM III: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski,
Academic Affairs