

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**5/4/2010**  
**Olin 304**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

**Members present:** Dan Conway, Anne Earel, Kristin Douglas, Alli Haskill, Margaret Farrar, Carrie Hough, Karin Youngberg, Dan Lee, Allen Bertsche, Mariano Magalhaes, and Virginia Johnson.

**AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from the 4/28/10 meeting; 1-Virginia; 2- Karin APPROVED

**AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS**

1. Service Learning Guidelines

EPC is in the process of creating a document (and later, a website) to showcase service learning courses offered on campus. Their goal is to address this matter before the end the spring term.

Should we update our documents to include explicitly in our bullet points civic engagement and reflection (see the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point on our working draft of our service learning document)? Kristin will make changes and send the document to EPC.

2. Re-strategizing gen ed document for fall retreat.

Last week's faculty meeting ended in a vote in support of the curriculum taskforce's recommendation to move forward with a faculty and student credit reduction.

Revising total gen ed requirements to be <1/3 of students' workload is part of our new charge. We need to decide if we think that our committee's charge is to make significant modifications to the gen ed program. The committee reviewed the official committee functions document for gen ed to address this question.

We are questioning the specific courses that get us to the gen ed goals. Because we are not completely revamping the program, committee members believed that it is within our charge to move forward with plans to reduce AGES. A consensus was reached that what we are being asked to do (create a *recommendation* for reducing the size of our AGES program) is likely within the scope of our responsibilities.

Questions that were raised: Is now the time to re-GEWG? Not all faculty members were supportive of GEWG's work.

Gen ed next year will have to come up with two scenarios—one that assumes a semester configuration and one that assumes a trimester configuration.

Likely we will need to maintain our current program until a new model is adopted (i.e., it would be too complicated to address our short term staffing issues in an alternate plan to address the years before 2013 when new curricular changes take effect.)

Margaret suggested that we inform faculty of the types of questions we will be addressing over the course of the next school year (LSFY staffing concerns, etc.) and our anticipated timeline for addressing these questions.

Maybe we could present best practices for general education (i.e., what practices are we going to focus on as we move forward?) We may want to couple a best practices presentation with a review of the data we presented last year at the retreat.

Our subcommittee work that we have been working on still should be incorporated into our presentation at the retreat. We should aim to have our subcommittees submit their drafts to Kristin by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 3. Update from Academic Affairs

Wow! We have a large first year class. This is good news for the College, but will present a new challenge for staffing gen ed courses.

## **AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Discussion of LSFY survey data from upper class students.

We should follow up on Josh Morgan's suggestion of separating out honor student responses.

There were several students who commented on interdisciplinarity of courses- shall we revisit this?

Responses indicated that students do not see connections between gen ed courses and their disciplines/majors. At one point we tried marketing these courses as being relevant to specific disciplines/majors. Do we need to return to this model?

Lack of consistency between courses was cited as a negative aspect of the program by many students. This seems to frustrate students.

Could marketing help us discuss directly with students how liberal studies courses make connections to disciplinary courses? Another suggestion: a pamphlet or interview on the website that addresses the message, "why a major is not enough." Recall that Kent Barnds told us how prospective students value majors; thus, it should not surprise us that students want to know how all courses, including LSFY courses, will help them with what they do when they graduate.

Could we do a convocation series or video that involves alums telling students about their career paths? This has been popular in the past with our students.

### 2. Updates from subcommittees.

Not addressed today.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Subcommittees should continue to try to meet before summer.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2010.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.