

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2009
Old Main 128

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Margaret Farrar, Randall Hall, Virginia Johnson, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Dan Lee, Joe McDowell, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Karin Youngberg

Guest Present: Michael Nolan

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 11, 2009 meeting minutes were not available for approval.

AGENDA ITEM II – OLD BUSINESS

A. Assessment

Margaret Farrar provided a recap of a general education assessment conference recently attended.

- Keep it simple. Don't be elaborate. Focus on work students are already doing. What do we want to know about general education? Look for big pattern of what students are or are not learning.
- Continual feedback to faculty in general education program. Focus on what we want to know. Whatever we find, communicate to faculty in the program. Consider giving feedback to students, also.
- It's not about introduction of skills, but reiteration of skills. Where else is it emphasized? I.e., research paper and senior inquiry?
- How might we integrate general education assessment and assessment of the major?

Senior inquiry provides us with a unique opportunity for evaluating the reflective component. Potential for broad assessment that reveals something interesting. Are students getting a liberal arts education that is likely to appear in reflective component? Incentive for students is that they are already invested in their major and would likely take the task seriously.

Could look at senior inquiry projects focusing on general education skills or oral presentation skills by evaluating those presentations through the lens of general education.

Mike Nolan added that the assessment review committee has a speech rubric. They have done writing assessment in spring and have done work on focus groups. He suggested the General Education committee could do 1st year interview and follow up 4 years later. Another thing that can be manageable is some sort of curriculum mapping. Biology did a curriculum maps. Business did a curriculum map. (LC's and gen ed skills). Mike added that it's important to keep in mind that one of things about department assessment is that faculty don't want to do it. But they do want to improve their classes, and will spend long hours working on curriculum. Key: feedback has to be fast. He ended by saying that the Assessment Committee does not care what Gen Ed assesses. Assess what you want to know about. Come up with 4-5 things you think are important.

The committee had concerns that this discussion was focusing on general education program as it relates to the big picture, and not from the learning perspectives standpoint, i.e., Humanities, is the PN or Q going to get reflected on? Is that a problem? Are some disciplines biased for some skills? Also, how does general education program relate to fine arts?

It was felt that once the committee decides what to assess, then they would focus on 1-2 tasks each year, and continue on a rotating year cycle.

CHALK BOARD NOTES

Ideas

SI Reflection

Gen Ed Skills in SI Projects

Evaluate oral presentation skills during SI presentation

Gen Ed depositions in SI's

Curriculum mapping (Biology, Business)

They Say, I Say → evidence/arguments

Assess pieces?

Assess big picture

Are LPs doing what they say?

Faculty buy-in

Quick feedback for modification of instruction

Who will do this work?

What is manageable?

Are some disciplines biased for some skills?

New SI rubric (Teagle)

Speech rubric

Teagle writing rubric

FY – senior interviews

Focus groups

B. EPC Motion

Kristen informed the Committee that she spoke with Jeff Abernathy about Gen Ed desiring to continue the discussion of late approval requests further; that the motion he proposed should not go to faculty senate at this time. Jeff was very happy to have a future discussion regarding this with input from Gen Ed. The committee suggested that putting something prominently featured in the faculty newsletter about timely submission of approval requests be done to avoid last-minute requests for approval.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Procedures

- Moodle Site: The General Education Committee meeting agendas and minutes will be posted to a Moodle site.
- Day of Meetings: A consensus was not reached on this topic. Discussion to continue next week.
- Duties of Faculty Chair: This will be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Nominate a Gen Ed Representative to EPC:

Motion-Kramer, Second-Lee APPROVED

“To designate Margaret Farrar as the General Education Committee representative who will attend Educational Policies Committee meetings on their behalf.”

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski