

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Revised MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2009

Evald 113

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Margaret Farrar, Randall Hall, Mary Koski, Mariano Magalhães, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Karin Youngberg

Guest Present: Michael Nolan

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Hall, Second-Bertsche APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the March 25, 2009 General Education Committee meeting as presented.”

AGENDA ITEM II – OLD BUSINESS - Assessment

The committee grouped the 3-18-09-generated list of assessment topics as follows:

Categorization of brainstorming list (from April 1, 2009)

Knowledge	Skills	Dispositions	Program Elements
Interdisciplinary connections	Writing skills	Interdisciplinary connections	Measure how LP functions as compared to others who teach the same LPs
Awareness of diverse views	Critical thinking skills	Attitudes towards diverse views	How Gen Ed connects with co-curriculars and extra-curriculars
	Reading skills	What’s a liberal arts education?	Do Honors sections meet Gen Ed goals?
	Information literacy skills	Civic engagement (citizens as consumers)	Are specific LPs fulfilling their charge?
	Oral communication	Does Gen Ed keep students from closing doors, does it open doors? (exploration of curriculum)	Are LCs fulfilling their charge?
	Interdisciplinary connections		Are suffixes fulfilling their charge?
			Interface SI with liberal arts (Gen Ed)
			Interfacing Gen Ed program with Convocation series
			Use of common readings (LSFY)
			All common elements (LSFY)

Outside the box category (things that are important to know but do not directly deal with Gen Ed)

What is said during tours?
How is Augie sold in visits?
Effectiveness of online registration (problems)
Honor code (writing skills / research skills)
How effective are faculty in discussing liberal arts

The next step to take is to zero in on topics most important at this point, and to find out where some of this information might already exist. A way to think about this is to ask, “what do you think students should look like when they leave?” What is their attitude toward knowledge? Do they have understanding about how disciplines work? If they don’t come out with something like this, we have not done our jobs. The technique used to get this information should be thought out, especially since no one has unlimited time to spend on this. Interviews can be done relatively fast. Figure out what you want to know and if the resources exist to get that information. Plan on gathering information on a yearly cycle with a theme of the year; i.e., year I = writing, critical thinking (information literacy test). Mike Nolan will be adding survey and rubric information to the table, and will forward it to Kristin prior to the next Gen Ed meeting.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS – UPDATES FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1. Margaret Farrar asked for feedback as to whether or not a General Education Retreat should be held this year. The General Education Committee is under no obligation to have an annual retreat, according to the Dean. The committee was polled: 1) not to have a full Gen Ed retreat but instead a day that the General Education Committee meets to discuss their future goals and assessment; or 2) one day of faculty retreat and assessment of program elements. A comment was made that since the committee’s primary focus at this time is assessment, that just a workshop for the Gen Ed Committee seemed appropriate at this time. Kristin asked the committee members to email her their thoughts.
2. The General Education Committee has been asked to clarify the relationship between Augie Reads and the LS sequence. 102 and 103 faculty are not sure what they are supposed to do to bridge the two readings. Since Augie Reads is an offshoot of the General Education Committee, Gen Ed needs to have clear sense of this relationship and to communicate it to the Augustana faculty. The committee was asked to think about this and to share thoughts with Margaret.
3. Margaret asked for committee support in making minor changes to the online course approval/LP/suffix approval forms. The committee gave her their support.
4. Mariano and Molly Todd are considering a learning community next winter for two 100-level courses. Gen Ed was asked their thoughts. The Registrar’s office feels that the learning community would fill up before first-year students would be able to sign up. Some felt that even though some learning communities are approved for 100-level paired with 200-level courses, that two 100-level courses might not be appropriate. Margaret suggested that Gen Ed discuss this further and come up with written guidelines. For now it was felt that a decision regarding this should be held off. This could be an agenda item for the Gen Ed Committee “half-day retreat”.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski

