General Education Committee

October 21, 2011

Minutes

Present: Burk,Canfield, Kelley, Klotz, Kuiken, Pickett, Thomas, Van Der Karr.

Excused: Mattingly, Forde (student member), Hokanson, Schutt, White,

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action Item** |
| Minutes from October 7 |  | Minutes approved. |
| New Member at Large | Anita Kuiken introduced Linda Pickett, Childhood/Early Childhood Ed. Dept. as the new Member-at-Large (2011-2013). | Welcome Linda! |
| Shared Drive Created | Kuiken announced that a shared drive for the Committee has been set up so files may be shared more easily. | Carol Van Der Karr volunteered Pam Schroeder as administrator. |
| Review of GE Committee Summary Report for Academic Year 2010-2011 | Abby Thomas presented the report. It was noted that the report refers to a 3-year assessment cycle, and the Committee has recommended a 4-year cycle.  Larry Klotz mentioned that a Dept. chair was unsure of where to get information on requirements for GE courses.  A question was raised re: the status of Music 105 proposal for GE 8 designation. | Assessment cycle wording was changed to “multi-year” since decision on length of cycle is pending.  Van Der Karr will send out memo to chairs re: online location of GE information.  Thomas said she had contacted the Dept. about the need to provide more information re: this course. Committee decided to wait for the Dept. to respond. |
| Presentation of GE Assessment Plan for 2011/12 – 2013/14 to Faculty Senate. | Thomas reported that she and Orvil White received generally positive responses to the Plan. |  |
| Results of Spring 2011 Assessments | Merle Canfield distributed the results for the US History and Society, The Arts, Foreign Language, and Basic Communication: Presentation Skills Categories. The results for the Quantitative Skills  Category are still being analyzed.  A lengthy discussion ensued after Pickett raised the issues of assessment reliability and validity and of how comparisons could be made between results from one survey year to the next. It was generally concluded that variability from survey year to survey year is inherent in a number of different assessment schemes. Canfield explained the different reasons for why there may have been large changes between the 2008 and 2011 surveys for various categories. Pickett explained that the Assessment Rubric was specific to a particular category at her previous institution, whereas at SUNY Cortland the Rubric is standard for all categories. Kuiken asked the Committee whether specific category rubrics were something we wanted to consider. Some questioned whether there was time to do this prior to the next round of assessments in the spring and others wondered whether there would be enthusiasm for it. Others thought it might be worth pursuing. | Canfield will draft an email explaining how the data were obtained and analyzed and will send it out along with the results to those teaching in the specific categories.  It was decided to continue discussion re: specific category rubrics at the next meeting. |
| Meeting Adjourned 10:00 am. | Next meeting Nov. 11. 9 am. | Meeting was adjourned. |

Respectfully Submitted by Larry Klotz, October 21, 2011