General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2014

Members Present: Brooke Burk, Carol Van Der Karr, Bruce Mattingly, David Smukler, Jennifer McNamara, Lisa Czirr, Robert Spitzer, Sonia Sharma, Stephen Chemsak, Yomee Lee

Members Absent: Emily Quinlan, Sam Kelley

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action** |
| **Approval of minutes from 2/6/14 (Brooke)** |  | Minutes approved. Brooke will add attendance. |
| **GE Timeline handout (draft)** | Brooke distributed a handout detailing the GE Committee’s steps (*General Education Campus Discussion, 2013-2014 Timeline*). The committee can provide feedback on any alterations needed to this draft. |  |
| **Discussion about open meetings and responses** | There was general discussion about the faculty open meetings.   * A lot of interesting content to go through. * There are many differing opinions about proposed changes… often very strong opinions.   Further discussion about the SGA open meeting.   * Brooke noted that students were very engaged and thoughtful about the process, that they want to challenge themselves and be pushed. This was especially evident in their preference for taking 6 out of 8 (rather than the proposed 5), and favor for GE 11.   + Carol: we should make faculty aware of what the students think about GE… particularly their openness to challenges. * How many were present? About 70 students. * History is the hardest subject according to students- not science. * Students are interested in having a vote. * Question (Sonia): Could we get a student representative on the GE committee?   + Brooke: We have one. It’s typically a challenge to get them attending regular meetings.   + Maybe for something like these proposed changes, students would take more interest in involvement.   Discussion came up that we are at the end of our timeline. We will need to have a decision made by the Fall, so that departments can prepare for credit changes to take place in 2015. For example, AED programs will need to know how they will balance GEs with their pedagogical classes.  Sonia mentioned that Faculty Senate is interested in the proposal. They suggested a preliminary report should go out to all faculty before the proposal.   * David: Don’t put it off- let’s send a report and the proposal at the same time. * Robert: The committee should put out a single proposal this time, even if the decision is no change.   Carol has heard from people who still would like to send feedback even though we are now past the deadline. Would we still like to receive this feedback? Should we extend the deadline?   * David’s suggestion: Consider the feedback, yes, but don’t give them a new deadline. Changing that would mean we would likely get feedback too late. We can still consider anything we get before the next meeting. |  |
| **Discussion of Spring retreat** | The committee members decided to each focus on specific information, similar to last time:   * Email Responses: Carol, Jenn * Faculty Open Meetings: 14th (Sonia and Stephen), 17th (David and Emily), 20th (Lisa and Robert) * SGA Meeting: Brooke   We discussed the materials we should get together in the final proposal to send, including: background, timeline, survey questions, handouts (including the proposed models, etc), campus emails, GE links… and anything else that the committee thinks should be included.  Carol talked with Erik Bitterbaum about GE. He’s supportive and interested in how the process is going. | Brooke will email the committee with notes from the meetings.  Everyone will analyze their information for discussion during the retreat.  Brooke will send the agenda for the retreat. |
| **Meeting adjourned** |  |  |

Submitted by Lisa Czirr

Approved 4/3/2014