

General Education Committee
March 8, 2012 Minutes

Start: 12:30 pm
Adjourn: 1:30 pm

Present: Jon Inglett, Dr. Courtney Vahlberg, Mary Turner, Doug Gregory, Dr. Janet Perry, Sherri Ray, Jorge Lopez, Pam Stout, Catherine Kinyon, Jay Ramanjulu, Charles Myrick, and Dawn Ladiski.

Absent: Greg Gardner, Dr. Max Simmons, Valerie McCartney

Jorge Lopez made motion to accept previous meeting's minutes.
Pam Stout seconded
Unanimous approval

Jon began the meeting by discussing public speaking. He posed the question of whether activities within modern language classes would fall into the category of public speaking. He also encouraged committee members to push harder in the fall to get examples of public speaking assignments across campus. It was also suggested that the definition of oral communication be broadened to include all kinds of speaking/presentations and not just the narrow focus that is currently used.

It was agreed that someone from the committee would ask Erin Logan and Dr. Debra Vaughn for public speaking activities in Student Life and Career Services and Job Placement. Charles elaborated on some of the activities that he's aware with respect to Student Life student organizations.

Next, the discussion turned to the issue of how general education is listed in the college catalog. The competencies are listed in a way that makes them look course/department specific. Student learning outcomes reach across disciplines. Catherine indicated that from an assessment perspective, removing the Roman numerals could be seen as a backward move. Courtney suggested an all or none approach as courses encompass more than one competency. She posed a question about what would be involved in remapping competencies. Catherine responded that that would involve looking at all of the syllabi.

Doug suggested that the lead professor for each course should provide the core values and outcomes for each class.

Catherine raised a concern about push-back from faculty. Doug disagreed. He said that they would probably provide the syllabi and long as they didn't have to participate in the rest of the process.

The committee was asked if we want to develop course mapping. Courtney offered a caution regarding critical thinking.

Jon suggested that the committee work on categories first because the deans have already approved the idea of examining outcomes.

The committee discussed the AACU rubrics for Critical Thinking and Intercultural Knowledge. These may provide broader perspectives than what we currently use.

Pam Stout made a motion to continue this discussion and to adjourn
Charles Myrick seconded the motion
Approval was unanimous.