

**General Education Curriculum Committee 2005-06
Meeting of February 3, 2006 – 3:00 p.m.**

Minutes

Voting Members Attending: Ann Allen, Karen Black, Sherri Brown, Karen Gray, Carol Holloman, Anna Marie Johnson, Ben Moore, (student), Babu Nahata, Alicia Paez (student), David Swanson, David Schultz, Larry Tyler, Bronwyn Williams (Chair), Wiley Williams
Others: Dale Billingsley (non-voting), Kathy Carden (staff), Michelle Bachelor (non-voting) Julia Dietrich (non-voting)

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of December 2, 2005 were approved.

2. **General Education Assessment:** Chairman Williams thanked Michelle Bachelor for the well-organized assessment training and reported that the readings on January 28 went well. Ann Larson organized the training and Sherri Brown was one of four leaders. She, Bruce Adams and Tom Mackey assisted with the revision of the rubrics. The 24 readers represented 4 GECC members, 4 table leaders from CEHD, and 16 from all undergraduate units except Dentistry. "Preliminary" numbers were reported as follows:

- 315 documents read for Critical Thinking (CT): All documents had two readings, and a third if resolution was necessary.
- 252 documents read for Effective Communication (EC): Some documents were not read twice, some were, and those that needed resolution would be read in a follow-up session.
- 280 documents read for Cultural Diversity (CD): Some documents were not read twice, some were, and those that needed resolution would be read in a follow-up session.

There was a high level of cooperation and the readings went fairly smoothly; however, a few additional readers would have been helpful to complete the task. Once the data is available, it will be reviewed before moving forward with additional collections. Due to one problem area in the CT rubric, which skewed the scoring, it was suggested that the fourth outcome be deleted. Revised rubrics will be posted on the web.

Overall, the chair was impressed with the CT papers and agreement among the readers. Sherri Brown and Karen Black suggested the writing of benchmark answers at some levels; however, this could be tricky if not imposing common assignments. Examples could be given in the next training to assist the readers.

3. **Blackboard Caliper Project:** The institutional team is seeking two faculty representatives for the Blackboard Caliper Project – one from the GECC. Julie Berman

has been involved in past dialogue but cannot continue to serve. Sherri Brown agreed to work with the Delphi Center and other PDP (Product Development Partner) representatives. The task involves answering e-mails, attending informational seminars, and participating in conference calls related to the development of the project.

4. General Education Course Offerings/Demands: Billingsley is concerned that courses are being added but that seats are not being increased. Additionally, he fears that if special topics courses continue to be approved that the expanded listing of general education course offerings will become confusing to the students and progressively more difficult to track, as in the past. To determine whether there's a need for more seats (in some departments) vs. more courses, he will request a report from the Registrar's office. Also, it was suggested that the frequency of offerings be audited. The age-old concern about part-time instructors teaching lower-level core courses--jeopardizing the integrity of the core curriculum--was also raised. Dietrich pointed out the economics issue at the root of this problem. Per the recommendations of last year's subcommittee and the new data, the course demands issue will be revisited.

Williams reminded the committee that specific departments are not being policed but that the general education program is being assessed as a whole in terms of whether students can think critically, etc.

5. Future Meetings: The February 17 meeting was canceled. The full committee would meet again on March 3.

Kathy Carden, recorder