

General Education Curriculum Committee 2004-05
Meeting of October 29, 2004 - 2:30 p.m.

Minutes

Voting Members Attending: Ann Allen, Julie Berman, Karen Black, Lynn Boyd, Susan Crim, Richard Dugger, Karen Gray, Carol Holloman, Anna Marie Johnson, Avery Kolers (Chair), David Schultz, Bill Weinberg, Wiley Williams
Others: Dale Billingsley (non-voting), Kathy Carden (staff)

1. The minutes of October 8, 2004 were approved.
2. Gray reported that the Humanities Division is refining an assessment model. Faculty who are teaching general education courses will devise a template of questions for assessing the courses. Faculty members in Humanities have been submitting assessments for a couple of years. This information and other collected data (QMS and various surveys) may be useful – may be able to integrate. Billingsley distributed for review a 28-question, general education assessment instrument from AAC&U.

A separate instrument might be needed for the assessment of the General Education Program itself. One question is whether students are able to take courses at a convenient time (sequence issue).

3. Schultz discussed the first draft of “solutions” for unmet demand. Individual endorsements included:
 - count the 4th or 5th semester of a foreign language as CD (redefine the definition of CD to include upper-level foreign languages)
Note: Consult the Curriculum Development Project regarding need and feasibility
 - explore the option of testing out of general education courses, based on certain standards such as CLEP and AP
***ACTION:** Unmet Demands Subcommittee will survey this option and determine extent of “test outs” and any credit awarded
 - determine whether there is a perceived problem or real problem in programs (such as Speed, Music, and Nursing) that require prerequisites early on, simultaneously with the general education curriculum
 - address the shortage of OC courses at the freshman level (a known shortage)
 - determine how many general education courses are held until the point of Freshman Orientation (enrollment pressures reported by Roselle Taylor)
***ACTION:** Berman to follow up and report to Kolers.

Other comments:

- difficult to teach a course that fulfills two content areas (current shortage of faculty to teach at this level)
- the capacity issue has not yet been revisited by Boyd, although the MBA teams began a study (Example: 1,000 seats in ENGL 101 reduced to 60 by the beginning of freshman registration)
- offering CD courses is a Kentucky Plan and OCR requirement (but not SACS)
- general education content courses are less specific at the 100 and 200 levels and can be taught by PTLs (helps address distribution of faculty shortages)

***ACTION:** Turn the discussion into a report and present it to the Deans (make them aware of the problems in conjunction with budget planning).

Note: The GECC can propose, but any changes to the general education learning outcomes/competencies require the endorsement of the unit faculties.

4. The November 5 meeting was canceled to accommodate subcommittee follow-up work. The next full committee meeting was set for November 19.

Kathy Carden, recorder