

**General Education Curriculum Committee
Meeting of April 24, 2009, 2:30 p.m.**

Minutes

Attending (Voting): Beattie, Busch, French, Futrell, Haworth, Jones, Koerselman, Maron, Menezes, Singleton, Weinberg, Williams, Zimmerman, *(Non-Voting):* Billingsley, Carden, Robinson, Steinberg

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 9, 2009 were approved.

Update on Assessment

Robinson reported that the plan to assess the Natural Sciences competencies with the current rubric is set for the fall semester. However, the next goal is to bring all rubrics in line with i2a (Ideas for Action) and the Paul-Elder model. Project #1: Volunteers are needed to bring uniformity to the language of the rubrics—common language that students would recognize. Project #2: Volunteers are also needed to serve on a subcommittee to develop a measuring tool/check-off template to evaluate whether Critical Thinking (CT) outcomes are included in general education courses. The review of the syllabi is a collaborative effort with i2a. The goal of the i2a plan is that students learn critical thinking skills in general education courses that can then be carried over into the majors and applied in the community and the world for a culminating experience.

*Action: A head start on creating an evaluative instrument over the summer was proposed.

Update on A&S General Education Advisory Committee

Beattie reported that, under the directive of the dean, A&S departmental reps have been meeting to discuss the effectiveness of the delivery of general education with a focus on goals, outcomes and ways to make improvements. There is a need to educate faculty who inherit general education courses. For example, certain syllabi criteria need to be met and instructors need to know about general education requirements. Since A&S owns most general education courses, the assessment and monitoring by the college was commended. The A&S chairs have been given the responsibility of communicating to the instructors the general education objectives and syllabi requirements.

A suggestion was made to have a prominent and dedicated general education site with linkages to the academic units vs. the posting of general education course syllabi on individual sites.

*Action: Billingsley will follow up on this discussion and how to best coordinate such an effort.

Review of Function & Structure of the GECC (Provost's Charge 9/3/03)

The original committee charge is outdated in some ways now that the function of the GECC has moved beyond implementation oversight into ongoing development of the general education

program. Therefore, the committee reviewed the charge, considered whether there were additional administrative tasks that they should be doing, and recommended some editorial modifications. One major concern is whether courses originally approved for general education credit are still fulfilling the criteria across the multiple sections. Another is the frequency of offering issue. Also, the original intent was to reduce the number of different general education courses, yet a number of special topics courses are being offered. Therefore, Busch proposed the addition of the following text to address these concerns:

Courses previously approved that are found upon review by the committee no longer to meet the general education criteria and learning outcomes shall be removed from the list of general education courses.

*Action: Koerselman asked Williams if he could work with him on refining the edits.

The GECC was adjourned until Fall 2009 and members were thanked for their service.

Prepared by Kathy Carden