

General Education Core Curriculum Review Committee Minutes: April 21, 2004

Present:

Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Michael Roberto, Shirley Bell, Perry Howard, Shea Burns, Trent Larson, Nita Dewberry, John Kelly, Sandra Hicks, Jean Williams, Doretha Foushee, Rita Lamb.

- I. Minutes of the March 19, 2004 meeting were approved.
- II. Dr. Rita Lamb attended the meeting as a guest member. All committee members introduced themselves to her. Dr. Lamb requested that “learning communities” be placed on a future GECCR committee meeting agenda. She explained that pilot programs are currently being implemented and that the work of the Learning Communities group would fit well with the work of the GECCR.
- III. Plans are being finalized for the five-member team that will attend the AAC&U’s General Education Institute in Rhode Island during May 21-26. Team-members from A&T include: Bob Davis, Scott Simkins, Shea Burns, Shirley Bell and Perry Howard. Scott Simkins presented an update on the planned activities of the team during the Institute. At the Institute, the team will work on initial drafts of our General Education curriculum, assessment process and governance structure. This will lay the foundation for further discussions during the next academic year. [Note: Simkins received an email later on April 21 from the AACU Institute director asking the team to present the NC A&T gen. ed. revision process as part of a four-university panel discussion during the Institute.]
- IV. Bob Davis reported that most of the schools/colleges had endorsed the Preamble and Learning Objectives statement. The schools of Agriculture, Education and Business/Economics have not yet endorsed the statement but meetings have been planned before the end of the semester. After endorsement from all schools/colleges, the statement will be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval.
- V. Sandra Hicks presented a draft statement of the Health Lifestyles and Behavior learning objective: *Incorporate principles of health promotion into a wellness lifestyle that includes nutrition, exercise, avoidance of mind-altering chemicals, and the development of healthy relationships and spiritual growth. Recognize behaviors that place individuals, families and communities at risk for altered health status.* A subcommittee (consisting of Hicks, Larsen, Lamb, Harris and Williams) was appointed to revise the statement and present it again at the next GECCR committee meeting.
- VI. Sanjiv Sarin presented a “Developmental Model” of General Education based on Portland State University’s program. The model is based on a progressive development of knowledge and skills in four major goals over four years. The four major goals are related to: Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility/ Civic Engagement/Ethics, and Diversity/World Cultures. The current learning objectives are connected to these four goals. For each goal, there are three “levels” of learning: Foundation/Discovery, Analysis/Problem Solving and Integrative. For each Goal-Level combination, a set of measurable outcomes will be defined. As students progress from the Foundation/Discovery level to the Integrative Level, the learning outcomes will change from Knowledge and Comprehension to Synthesis and Evaluation (higher levels in Bloom’s taxonomy). The table below summarizes the elements of this model. Members of the committee hope to visit Portland State University (and possibly Howard University and the College of Charleston) early in the fall semester to get first-hand experience with model general education programs.

Proposed Outline of NC A&T General Education Program (based on Portland State program)

Developmental level	III. Integrative (Capstone Experience)	Learning Outcomes			
	Work in the major				
	II. Analysis / Problem-Solving	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes
	I. Foundation Inquiry/Discovery	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes
	Critical Thinking	Communication Skills	Social Responsibility, Civic Engagement/Ethics	Diversity & World Cultures	
	Knowledge Areas				

- VII. Bob Davis discussed the Faculty Roundtable concept for administering the academic issues with responsibility for academic oversight of the General Education program; for example, admitting courses into the program, approving assessment methods, evaluating assessment results, etc. The roundtable will consist of elected faculty representatives from each school/college and co-curricular areas. There was a suggestion from Scott Simkins to elect these faculty members early next fall to aid the transition from the current GECCR committee to the next phase of the general education revision/implementation process. The Faculty Roundtable would be involved in developing rubrics for program and course assessment, along with the GECCR committee during the 2004-2005 academic year. In addition, there will continue to be an advisory board for the general education program consisting of faculty, students and external stakeholders.
- VIII. Bob Davis suggested that the GECCR committee meet again to review the planned timeline of the committee's work. It was agreed that a working meeting of the committee will be held on May 19 at 10 a.m. to consider whether to revise the planned timeline.
- IX. The Executive Committee will be meeting with the Provost on April 30, 2004 to update her on the progress of the committee's work. Another meeting has been planned for May 6 with Dean Jackson and Provost Meyers to coordinate the restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences with the work of the GECCR.
- X. Scott Simkins reminded committee members of the two-day Summer Teaching Institute, "Focus on Learning," on May 11-12 for all faculty (including adjuncts) and graduate teaching assistants. Milt Hakel, Ohio Board of Regents' Eminent Scholar in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Bowling Green State University, will lead the workshop, along with Scott Simkins, Interim Director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning. Workshop details are available at the workshop portal set up by Drs. Hakel and Simkins, located at <http://Showcase.bgsu.edu/NCAT>.
- XI. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on May 19, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Recorded by Sanjiv Sarin