

General Education Core Curriculum Review Committee
Minutes: May 19, 2004

Present:

Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Shirley Bell, Perry Howard, Shea Burns, Jean Williams, Abebe Kebede, Cynthia Gillespie-Johnson, Lea Williams, Rita Lamb.

- I. Minutes of the April 19, 2004 meeting were approved.
- II. Dr. Lea Williams was introduced as a new member of the Committee. She is serving as the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor in place of Dr. Brewington.
- III. Dr. Rita Lamb gave a presentation on Learning Communities, in particular the ASPIRE program that will begin in Fall, 2004. This particular learning community focuses on freshman students and promotes reading and quantitative literacy as well as providing general "college survival skills" in an attempt to increase student learning and retention.
- IV. Bob Davis, Scott Simkins, Shea Burns, Shirley Bell and Perry Howard will attend the AAC&U's General Education Institute in Rhode Island during May 21-26. Simkins stated that the work of the A&T team will focus on Curriculum Structure, Assessment and Governance. He informed the members that A&T was selected as one of five that will present an overview of ongoing work at a plenary session at the Institute.
- V. Kebede suggested we look at the New Mexico State University model in addition to the others we are reviewing.
- VI. Bob Davis reported that the General Education Learning Objectives statement (including Preamble and Guiding Principles) will be first on the Faculty Senate's agenda in Fall 2004. There was some discussion regarding the Health, Well-being and Life Skills objective. It was agreed that the subcommittee needs to reconsider the statement and return with a revised statement at the next meeting.
- VII. Sarin shared information regarding the Pilot Courses to be offered in Fall 2004. An initial set of pilot courses for general education was proposed. These courses appear to be interdisciplinary based on the catalog descriptions and will be identified as such in fall 2004. The instructors will be required to: meet with the General Education executive committee for an orientation session; submit a 2-page plan for enhancing the course; enhance and align the course with the new general education preamble, learning objectives and developmental model; show how the course shows connections between at least two disciplines; document learning objectives for the course that are consistent with the approved general education learning objectives; specify and implement an assessment plan for the course; interact with the faculty roundtable periodically during fall 2004; and submit a 2 page report detailing how the course has changed and how it meets the goals of the new general education model.
- VIII. Simkins shared his ongoing work with four History faculty members (HIST 101) which has a larger scope. The lessons learned from this project can be ported to ENGL and MATH courses, especially issues involving large classes.
- IX. Davis provided a summary of the Executive Committee's meeting with Dr. Caesar Jackson. He explained the proposed reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences that would allow independent funding of the General Education program. Dr. Jackson has provided assurance that the work of the General Education committee would not be impacted by the structural changes in the College of A&S.
- X. Committee members agreed with the proposal to implement the revised general Education program starting in Fall 2005. Davis reemphasized the role of the Faculty Roundtable in administering the academic issues with responsibility of 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 and will be elected early next fall.
- XI. The next meeting of the full committee will be on meeting will be held on June 16, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Recorded by Sanjiv Sarin