

General Education Core Curriculum Review Committee
Minutes: Sep 1, 2004

Present:

Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Shirley Bell, Lea Williams, Rita Lamb, John Kelly, Shea Burns, Trent Larson, Jean Williams, Sandra Hicks, Devang Mehta, Michael Roberto.

- I. Minutes of the August 18, 2004 meeting were approved.
- II. Davis shared a copy of the revised list of tasks and timeline. It was agreed that a copy of this document would be posted on the UNST Website.
- III. Davis and Sarin discussed the format for the meeting to be held with instructors of Fall 2004 pilot courses. The meeting will be held on Sep 7 (3:30 – 5:00 PM) in Dowdy 304.
- IV. Lea Williams and Simkins discussed plans for hosting the pre-proposal workshop on Sep 16 (3:00 PM – 5:00 PM) in Dowdy 304. Sarin reported that approximately 20 people have signed up to attend the workshop.
- V. Davis reported that the UNST Preamble and Learning Objectives will be presented to the Faculty Senate on Sep 28 (3:00 PM). The meeting will be held in Webb Hall Auditorium. All committee members were encouraged to attend the meeting.
- VI. Simkins announced that the workshop on Interdisciplinary Courses and Assessment has been finalized. The workshop will be held on Jan 12-13, 2005. Presenters will include Peggy Maki and Terry Rhodes.
- VII. It was agreed that the Faculty roundtable needs to be constituted as soon as possible. The Deans have been reminded to forward names of two representatives (one elected and one appointed by the Dean). It was further agreed that the elected representative will be the primary roundtable member with the appointed representative serving in a backup role. Each school/college will have one vote.
- VIII. Sarin presented a two-tier structure consisting of 25 credit hours of required courses, 9 credit hours to be defined by individual degree programs and 3-6 credit hours dedicated to a capstone experience. There was general support for this curriculum structure. Included in the proposal was an assessment of freshman students' proficiency on some key areas that could result in additional course requirements that will not count towards the UNST program requirements. This part of the proposal resulted in a number of differing opinions and the matter was postponed to the next meeting. A copy of the proposed program is attached.
- IX. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on Sep 15, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Recorded by Sanjiv Sarin

**Proposed curriculum structure for
University Studies (UNST) at
North Carolina A&T State University**

Freshman Assessment

During Freshman Orientation, all students will be expected to demonstrate competency in the following areas using a (to be specified) assessment:

- Information technology
- Foreign language
- Healthy lifestyles
- English composition
- Speech
- Algebra/geometry

If a student fails a particular assessment, he/she will be required to take one course to enhance his/her abilities in the corresponding area. **These credits will not count towards UNST requirements.**

Required courses

Freshman Seminar: Overview of UNST program, focus on interdisciplinary learning, service learning, global studies, other themes from FUTURES, why general education is important, connections among disciplines, etc. **1 credit.**

Required Core: **24 credits of required courses that are interdisciplinary.** They need not be in chunks of 3 credits each (how about a 6 credit course that combines writing, critical thinking, history and social relations?). In addition, these courses collectively ensure coverage of all the UNST Learning Objectives. Two ways to ensure coverage of learning objectives:

- Allow course developers to include any learning objective and require students to account for coverage of all learning objectives
- Define clusters that have several well defined learning objectives. Course developers will be required to select a cluster and ensure that each course within the cluster covers all learning objectives that define the cluster.

Major specified core: **9 credits of additional courses – left to individual degree programs** to specify provided each of these additional courses add to/reinforces one or more of the learning objectives

Capstone experience: Designed and specified by individual degree programs and consistent with the goals and objectives of the UNST program. Design projects, internships, co-op experiences, foreign study, community projects, etc. **Credits can vary from 3-6 hours.**

Volunteer service: **100 hours of service** in the community, to political and civic causes, on campus, etc.

Total credits = 34 semester credits (not including capstone or volunteer service)