

General Education Council
Meeting Minutes November 12, 2009

Present: Giuliana Andreopoulos, Alejandro Anreus, Lorra Brown, Sandra DeYoung, Peter Griswold, Jean Levitan, Kathy Malanga, Rob McCallum, Murli Natrajan, Lynne Orr, John Peterman, George Robb, Kathy Silgailis, Mahmoud Watad, Nancy Weiner

Guests: Karen Hilberg and Jane Zeff

Call to order: 12:40pm

1. George Robb moved to adopt the agenda; Peter Griswold seconded. Agenda adopted.
2. Rob McCallum moved to approve the minutes from the October 22th GE Council meeting; George Robb seconded. Minutes approved.
3. Co-Chairs Report
 - a. Jean noted that the initial focus for her and Kathy would be to coordinate things going forward. She also noted that we are at the beginning of the next round of the process and that we are back to being one council. Jean also stated that it was time to move forward to rethink what we are going to work on and determine what members would like to work on going forward.
4. Implementation Plan
 - a. **Review Panels.** Kathy moved discussion to focus on the draft implementation plan. She noted that we need to clarify some of the wordage in the document and establish how many review panels there will be. Discussion of the Review Panels followed and included the following comments:
 - Nine panels are proposed, but Lorra Brown noted that oral communication was overlooked.
 - Mahmoud Watad suggested we need only one panel, e.g., the GE Council, to review the courses.
 - George Robb noted that Technology should be labeled technology intensive to be consistent with writing intensive.
 - Sandy DeYoung questioned whether it was necessary to have separate panels for the skills (technology and writing). Perhaps we should define and develop guidelines for technology intensive, writing intensive and oral communication and have courses reviewed by the Council instead of establishing separate panels for these areas.
 - The Council ultimately decided to eliminate review panels for these two areas and the Council will decide if a course meets the “intensive” criteria as established and defined by the Council and experts in the area.
 - Kathy noted that each panel would be comprised of 5 members; including one member of the GE Council. Kathy also noted that the proposed panels align with the areas of the GE model.
 - Kathy explained that the Senate Executive Council would be making the appointments to each of the panels. After discussion it was decided that the

Council make recommendations as to what departments should be represented for each of the areas and the Council came up with a preliminary list for each of the areas.

- **Well Being:** Public Health, Psychology, Kinesiology and Economics.
- **Expression:** English, Art, Communication, Music, possibly Education.
- **Ways of Knowing-Humanities:** History, Philosophy, Women & Gender Studies; other colleges/departments.
- **Ways of Knowing-Social & Behavioral Sciences:** Three departments from the social sciences, psychology, sociology, political science, and possibly communication; other colleges/departments.
- **Ways of Knowing-Sciences & Quantitative:** Two sciences, one math; other colleges/departments.
- The Council recommends that the panels for the remaining three areas, **Diversity & Justice, Community & Civic Knowledge** and **Global Awareness** be composed of representatives from each of the five colleges with demonstrated expertise in the area.
- For all panels it was also recommended that an individual not be permitted to serve on more than one panel and that no more than one person from a department may serve on the same panel.

b. **Review of Learning Outcomes.** Discussion shifted to the Learning Outcomes document. Kathy noted that the Learning Outcomes would part of charge for the review panels. Kathy also noted that the across the curriculum outcomes for writing and technology were inadvertently omitted from the document. The Council went through the document and made the following changes:

- **Area One-Personal Well Being:** Change the last four outcomes from “.....*and financial well-being*” to “.....*and/or financial well-being*”.
- **Area Three-Ways of Knowing:**
 - **Social & Behavioral Sciences:** Change the first learning outcome to “.....*and methodologies in at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences*”.
 - **Scientific Perspectives:** Change the last learning outcome to “.....to use **appropriate quantitative skills** *in solving scientific problems*”.
- **Areas Four, Five and Six:** Suggestion was made that it should be specified how many learning outcomes should be met for each of these areas. One recommendation is to state that “*Courses should try to incorporate all of the stated learning outcomes*”, but a set number was not established.
- **Area Six- Global Awareness:** Change the last learning outcome to “...*knowledge of other cultures as appropriate to extend access....*”.

c. **Revisions to Implementation Plan.** The council briefly reviewed the draft document dated November 12, 2009. Plans are to incorporate the suggestions/recommendations made by the Council in terms of the review panels. Members were also asked to review the contents of the document and make suggestions for further clarification.

5. Suggestions for Naming the new GE
 - a. A few suggestions were bandied about, including University Studies, Core Curriculum, University Core Curriculum, University Foundations, Foundational Learning and The Matrix. No decision on a name was made and Jean encouraged everyone to send in their suggestions.

6. Organizing for Tasks Associated with the Implementation Plan
 - Jean and Kathy quickly reviewed the four different groups that will be used to reorganize ourselves and suggested that members consider which group they would like to work with during the next few months.
 - a. Review Panel Working Group
 - b. Faculty Development Working Group
 - c. Transition Plan Working Group
 - d. Assessment Working Group

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weiner