Gen Ed Committee Meeting

April 7, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Sue McLarry (NHP); Bill Humphrey (AG); Josie Welsh Assessment); Chris Harper (proxy for Marci Hayes - COM); Rick Clifft (ENGR); Dale Miller (FA); Rebecca Oliver (Honors); Jerry Ball (HSS); David Levenbach (HSS); Phyllis Pobst (HSS); Tim Norman (Military Science); Tanja McKay (SCOM); Chris Collins (Secretary – AAR)

Absent: Lynita Cooksey (AVCAA); Dan Marburger (BUS); Tom Adams (ED); Jeff Jenness (SCOM); Jill Simons (University College)

Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Dr. McLarry, Chair of Gen Ed Committee.

Minutes were reviewed by committee. Motion was made by Dr. Pobst to approve minutes with corrections as stated. Second was made by Dr. Humphrey. Motion carried, minutes approved with corrections.

Dr. Cooksey discussed with the committee the math requirement that students must have within their first 60 hours. 80% of students graduating have not met the math requirement.

Dr. McLarry asked if Higher Ed has date for 120 credit hour Bachelor’s degree limit. Dr. Cooksey indicated that Higher Ed does not have a date when change to 120 credit hours will take effect, however feels that it will be 2013 when the course numbering takes effect.

Course numbering will be a separate committee and will consist of people from other schools.

While attending the Student Success Symposium, Dr. Cooksey indicated that it was stated that we need to be more prescriptive with our students than non-prescriptive.

Dr. Levenbach asked what the implications are of ACT 747 related to the colleges.

Dr. Cooksey indicated that Health and Wellness are not included in the State core.

Dr. Welsh will send information on Writing to the committee.

**Critical Thinking**

There was much discussion on the critical thinking. Dr. Welsh will get the value added scores for this.

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Dr. Cooksey suggested the recommendation might be “For the next two years we want to improve the communication and critical thinking of our students” – This would be a challenge for the entire campus. Reading more, writing more. Showcase some of the things we do.

Dr. Welsh - Request funding or will there be any funding with this? (Assessment, reading, writing (i.e. erater – writing program that finds mistakes etc.)

Dr. Pobst – We are asking the faculty to do more (reading/writing) unfunded. Where is this going to be recognized and what are the teeth in this?

Dr. McLarry commented that we need to have the Gen Ed Chairs talk to their colleges and ask what their recommendations would be to Academic Affairs.

Dr. McLarry makes a recommendation – Go back to our colleges, what do they think is a reasonable thing to ask faculty? How do we measure critical thinking, writing?

Dr. Ball commented that registration is going on now so we need to look at those classes that are filling up quickly and see what’s going on in those classes.

Dr. Levenback commented that we need to ask what resources we want in order to get courses assessed and completed in the fall. (e-writer etc.)

Dr. Welsh – Do one page of Critical Thinking/Writing results and send out.

Low scores in critical thinking but we don’t have any data of scores.

Recommendation from Gen Ed to AA. If it requires more work what will happen? What can you see that we can do in the next 1-2 years? Are there resources we would absolutely have to have to do this? What changes are needed in what we are already doing to make scores better?

A challenge for departments is to find a way to demonstrate that we are impacting or improving the ability of our students to think critically. Other suggestion?

“How do we improve students’ writing across the curriculum?

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Collins

Assistant to AVCAS