

General Education Council Meeting
Minutes
November 06, 2013
8:00am WS 2806

Present: Kim Barron, Dwight Brady, Mike Burgmeier, David Donovan, Jill Leonard (Chair), Carolyn Lowe, Andy Poe, Robert Winn

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 10/30/13 minutes approved.

2. **Announcements and Reminders**

a. Reports from Departmental Visits

Physics: Based on feedback from Physics, Donovan indicated that we will need to make it clear to departments that a particular GenEd course will need to use the same rubric no matter who is teaching the course. Other comments included a request for breadth to the GenEd program.

Psychology: Donovan. The question was raised whether NMU needs a GenEd program (U.S. Dept. of Ed. says we do, and it should be x number of credits). There was some concern about having to use the ETS Proficiency Profile tests to assess GenEd. (Winn indicated that we used the ETS tests as part of our involvement in VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability) under Susan Koch. He indicated we are under no obligation to use it for assessing GenEd).

Philosophy: Leonard. Philosophy sees the revision as an opportunity.

b. Conferences :

- i. **Reforming Your General Education Curriculum** January 29 - 31, 2014 Chicago, IL. POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP Assessing the Quality of Your General Education Program
- ii. The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities,—“**QUALITY, E-QUALITY, AND OPPORTUNITY: How Educational Innovations Will Make—or Break—America’s Global Future**,”—will be held January 22-25, 2014, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC.
- iii. General Education and Assessment: Disruptions, Innovations, and Opportunities Network for Academic Renewal Conference February 27 — March 1, 2014 Portland, Oregon

Send interest in attending any of these to Winn.

c. Meetings: Tentative

Nov 6 – HLC comments and CCTP Rubric

Nov 13 – CCTP rubric

Nov 20 – another rubric

Nov 27 – All day session?

Dec 4 – another rubric/ assessment info request

Dec 11 – plan for next semester incl models; ID trial instructors for new rubrics

3. Discussion of possible models for Gen Ed structure

- a. Donovan suggests developing 2 - 3 models and getting input from departments before developing all the rubrics. The rubrics could change depending on what outcomes and model the Senate approves. Leonard suggested creating small groups to work on well-developed models with the goal of bringing models to departments at the end of January. Leonard will poll members about scheduling a day-long meeting on Wednesday, November 27.

4. Discussion of the Action Project Report and HLC Comments

Of note is the response that barriers to effective assessment be identified through a clear and effective process, along with a plan to address them. One effective means to overcoming resistance is to demonstrate how the process will benefit those impacted.

5. Discussion of Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking and Problem Solving Rubric

Leonard reminded us that we need data from at least one more rubric so we have some data to report to HLC as part of the action plan. We will also need to identify and develop a process for evaluating/revising rubrics. Tabled till the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Burgmeier