General Education Task Force
MINUTES
11/16/2011

Present: Rick Bartholomew, Jon Comer, Bruce Crauder, Steve Damron, Precious Elmore, Shelia Kennison, Amy Martindale, Brenda Masters, Bridget Miller, Kevin Moore, Bailey Norwood, Jeremy Penn, Joe Schatzer, Sheila Scott-Halsell, Peter Sherwood, Bob Spurrier, Ajay Sukhdial, Juliana Utley, Mark Weiser, Elizabeth Williams, and Michael Rabens.

1. Conference Attendance
Dr. Damron noted that the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) will be hosting their Summer Institutes June 2 – 6, 2012 in Maryland. Dr. Damron commented that one administrator and four faculty could attend. Dr. Damron is planning on asking the Provost for funding for travel if faculty doesn't have a travel budget. If interested, let Dr. Damron know. The application process should be started in January 2012.

2. AACU Speaker
January 30, 2012
Monday, January 30, 2012 is the date the AACU speakers plans to be on campus. Please mark your calendars. More details to follow.

3. Focus group announcement-Shelia Kennison
Dr. Kennison said that only four students attended the forums so she plans to visit with students in a more student oriented, relaxed environment. Dr. Kennison would like to visit with student in the fraternity houses and possibly plan some informal forums with the students. It was noted that more formal discussion could be scheduled for next semester.

4. Regents’ General Education Requirements-Bruce Crauder
Dr. Crauder handed out the general education core requirements from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) Academic Affairs Procedures Handbook. The required general education core includes “at least 55 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of the course work for the BS shall be in the liberal arts and sciences”. Dr. Crauder noted that this distinguishes the research institutions from the technical schools. What constitutes the designations is governed by OSU. Members asked how we report to OSRHE that the institutional is meeting the requirements. If OSU were to toss out the letter designations, the institution would have to submit a proposal to OSRHE requesting the change. It was noted that the OSRHE requirements are not that restrictive so there is room for revisions to the process. Members asked about the rule that general education courses with multiple prerequisites wouldn’t be approved by the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC) as the course would be considered more discipline specific and out of the realm of the general student population. Members asked if the task force could consider incorporating general education discussion in the capstone courses with prerequisites.
Dr. Norwood commented that this brings us back to the basics of “what does general education mean to OSU”? “What is OSU’s goals/base for general education and what outcomes are we seeking?” Could there be a better way to satisfy the general education requirements by embedding general education in the core courses of all disciplines rather through individual courses? Members commented that if general education was embedded in the core curriculum, students would have more ownership in learning general education and would have to make better grades.

5. **Group I (Goals) - Progress Report and Discussion-Bailey Norwood**
   
a. **First impressions of the forums**
   
   General consensus of the forums is that they went well and all were happy with the turnout.

   b. **Survey**
   
   Dr. Norwood noted that his group will be sending out the short survey for members to review. Members are to send feedback to Dr. Norwood. It was noted that the group is looking at general education practices at other institutions.

6. **Group II (Delivery) - Progress Report and Discussion-Jeremy Penn**

   Dr. Penn said that one goal of the group is to lay the groundwork and decide how the group will proceed. Jeremy noted that one of the potholes was the fear of the unknown when dealing with change. Group II is looking at transfer students and how the general education process/policies apply to them. The group is discussing the multiple general education programs through different colleges and discerning what should OSU’s role and what outcomes are desired. The group is looking defusing the outcome general education in the disciplines by considering a different model which would be integrated in the disciplines and not on a course by course base. Infusing general education in elective courses and encouraging students to get out of their “comfort zones” and take more elective hours.

7. **Group III (Perceptions) – Progress Report and Discussion-Ajay Sukhdial**

   In order to manage perceptions we first need to understand the following:
   
   - What are the possible changes that will be made to the general education curriculum?
     This will tell give us an idea of who is going to be affected in what way and then we can measure their specific concerns and devise ways to assuage them.
   
   - Who are the stakeholders (i.e., the groups of people who will be affected by any changes in the general education curriculum)?
     - The students
     - OSU alumni (preferably alumni who graduated at least 5 years ago)
     - The faculty who currently teach general education courses
     - The deans of the various colleges
     - The department heads at the various colleges
     - OSU faculty in general
• The board of regents of OSU
• The parents of OSU students
• To be asked of all the stakeholders:
  • What should the goals of general education be?
  • Is there any specific program content or methods of teaching that you recommend?
  • How well is the general education at OSU currently meeting the goals specified above?
  • What changes, if any, would you make to the general education curriculum?
  • Classes you would add.
  • Methods of teaching you would change /incorporate.
• To be asked of the alumni only:
  • Has the general education obtained at OSU been useful?
  • In what ways was the general education program useful?
  • Are there any general education classes that have been particularly useful?
• To be asked of the faculty currently teaching general education classes:
  • What additional resources would the faculty need to assist them in teaching the general education classes?
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• To be asked of the deans and department heads:
  • What are the constraints facing you in implementing any changes in the general education curriculum?

8. Additional Business
   Dr. Damron has a copy of the potholes book on his computer. If anyone wants a copy let him know.