

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, November 16, 2007

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, Mokhtar Atallah, Gail Cruise, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, Robert Faulkner, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Kevin Klement, Randall Knoper, Mark Leckie, Emily Alling, Ann C. Moore

Minutes:

The minutes of October 19, 2007 were passed by the Council.

Report on Information Literacy:

There was an in-depth and most informative presentation on Information Literacy, presented by Isabel Espinal, and guests Ann C. Moore and Emily Alling. Information Literacy is described as “the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze and use information,” as defined by the Association of College and Research Libraries. It was stated that information literacy is now a criterion to be judged at the NEASC Accreditation. It was also discussed how information literacy relates to writing and critical thinking and that it must be infused throughout a student’s career. The Council then deliberated as to what would be the best way to incorporate this. M. Atallah asked what would be the size of the stand-alone I.L. class, for staffing purposes. Isabel and Ann responded that it wouldn’t be very large since the students must have hands-on tutorials with computers. Randall suggested that since I.L. is offered as training in College Writing and Junior-Year Writing, maybe it could become more explicitly a part of writing education on campus. Mark L. suggested a possible solution of offering a one credit course between the freshman and sophomore years, which could be taken anytime the student chose. Then, at the end of the semester, an assessment checklist could be filled out by the student, determining whether the student would pass or fail. A one credit add-on was suggested by Maurianne; however, Anne Moore said that this would not be the best solution because students will not take the course seriously unless they must apply the IL principles in a course-integrated and graded assignment. Mokhtar mentioned that many faculty do incorporate I.L. within their course work, though it’s not being assessed. Alexandrina raised the concern of how I.L. would be incorporated, given the number of students on campus. Emily responded that on-line tutorials might be the solution. Gail C. commented that the incorporation of I.L. needs to be the responsibility of all instructors, who should convey the importance of it to their students. Randall mentioned that he would present this to the Gened Task Force.

Diversity Grants:

The following committee members volunteered to serve on the Diversity Grants Subcommittee for ’07 – ’08:

Isabel Espinal
Gail Cruise
Mark Leckie
Randall Knoper

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 19, 2007 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.