

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, December 16, 2006

Attendance:

Mohktar Atallah, Maurianne Adams, Alexandrina Deschamps, Laura Doyle, Andrew Effrat, Ginger Etinde, Isabel Espinal, Judy Goodenough, Randall Knoper, Mark Leckie, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Ernie May, Dori McCracken, Charlena Seymour

Minutes:

The minutes of November 17, 2006 were passed by the Council.

General Education:

Provost Charlena Seymour met with the council to discuss the Gened program, teaching diversity issues within Gened and the program of small grants in support of Diversity Education. Charlena presented the Council with the following questions: "What are the next steps in dissemination?" "How will we share what we've learned with other programs?" "Faculty & students must know about General Education." Charlena stated that she has heard, "students are not enamored from Gened requirements." She also stated that if General Education is to survive, it must be interesting to students. "We must have information and evidence that students are learning from these courses and that the courses offered will benefit students up to five years after leaving the University." She asked, "Are we in 'sync'? How do we demonstrate the sense of 'grand purpose' that Gened was meant to have?" Mokhtar Atallah expressed that Gened was established in 1984 and the grand purpose has been met by courses in Biological Science. He expressed that he believes all gened course requirements are meeting the grand purpose. She also stated that there needs to be a regular evaluation and review process. Randall Knoper suggested that there must be developed a larger sense of why Gened is established. Laura Doyle mentioned that tampering with the Gened requirements, especially those involving large lecture sessions, means tampering with funds for grads. Ernie May stated that there was a task force formed in 1999-2002 for Gened. This includes wanting to see Gened do a better job with fewer credits. Charlena suggested that there needs to be something about what we do and how Gened is having an impact. Pamela Marsh-Williams commented that there was no voice encouraging other faculty to participate in GenEd; there has been no core constituency. Mark Leckie suggested that the Council 1) mandate learning goals, 2) mandate assessment vehicle for end of course; this way, the feedback will show how faculty is doing their job and if the student comprehended what was taught. Judy Goodenough suggested that a workshop/discussion in which faculty who teach Gened define what General Education is all about for the faculty who do not teach Gened. Charlena asked the question, "What would make faculty enamored with Gened?" Mokhtar suggested that a seminar which would create a network through community with other faculty as well as having each syllabus state why their course meets Gened. Dori McCracken suggested getting other faculty who are not teaching Gened and educate them. Judy Goodenough stressed the importance of making faculty feel that Gened is something good and that they, as the faculty who teach Gened, are important. Charlena asked if there were significant things about our campus' Gened program in comparison to other campuses' Gened program. A subcommittee was formed consisting of Randal Knoper, Alex Deschamps, Andy Effrat, Ernie May, Maurianne Adams, Mark Leckie, and Isabell Espinal.

Voting:

MIL 290 (HS)

PASSED

Diversity Grants:

Maurianne Adams moved to affirm the diversity grant program

PROGRAM PASSED

There was one volunteer for the Ad Hoc committee on on-line learning. Mark Leckie will be emailed for possibly more volunteers.

Sociology 103, 244 and 332 will be deferred until Spring semester.

Next Meeting: Friday February 16th at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.