Meeting of the General Education Council—Minutes
April 25, 2014
2:00-4:30pm

I. Review of the Minutes from March 28, 2014

- approved

Attendance: Paulina Borrego, Kalpen Trivedi, Dori McCracken, David Morin, Stefan Herlitz, Reiko Sono, Martha Stassen, Claire Hamilton, Kym Morrison, Mei-Yau Shih, Martha Yoder, Ernie May, Judy Goodenough, Yolanda Wiggins, Christian Pulver, Maurianne Adams, John Lenzi, Karen Stevens; Guests: Bryan Harvey, Jack Ahern, Mzamo Mangaliso

II. Jack Ahern and Mzamo Mangaliso--discussion about the relationship between the UMA/ACE Draft Internationalization Plan (attached, with AAC&U Intercultural and Global Learning rubrics on which in part it is based).

Summary: Jack Ahern and Mzamo Mangaliso joined the Council to present their campus-based work based on the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Lab, for which Mzamo Mangaliso and Joe Berger are co-chairs. They presented the ACE Lab’s preliminary recommendations regarding campus internationalization, based on a report forwarded to the GEC as part of the agenda. Jack explained that the campus is currently engaged in a year and a half long internationalization program. The project includes 11 institutions, and it has been coordinated with phase three of the Joint Task Force on Strategic Overview (JTOSO). The group has been drawing directly from the AACU rubrics on Global Learning and Intercultural Knowledge and Competence which provide useful overviews of both global and US diversity concerns. With Maurianne’s invitation, Jack and Mzamo have been thinking about how to parlay this work into the work of the Gen Ed Council and create a broader and deeper sense of internationalization. One big issue they have noticed is that many classes engage with global or international issues, but they do not specify this in the syllabus, and some that say they engage with these concerns on the syllabus, do not do so in actuality.

Jack and Mzamo explained that, in the past the campus has approached internationalization by “doing more”—sending more students abroad, bringing more exchange students to campus, but not they are planning to be more intentional and create a richer intercultural experience for the entire campus. This includes getting students to understand how their own cultures work, as well as how other cultures work—these intercultural aspects require that students understand and work with other students to engage in these concerns

III. Discussion of proposed reframed language for Global & US components of Diversity requirement:

Summary: Building off the introduction of Jack and Mzamo, the Council had a lively discussion regarding how to frame the G and U designations, and whether or not the AAC&U rubrics on Intercultural and Global Learning proposed by Jack & Mzamo, will aid in this GenEd process. The general consensus of the
Council has been that there were several problems with the current descriptions of the G and U designations, in particular, the redundancy between the U and G and the lack of a firm distinction between the two. The G has become of particular interest, given the relatively weak GenEd description of G on the Website. Discussion involved how to define the G in a way that didn't consign the G designation to the study of one country, but that led students to compare cultures in a Global context, as they currently do in the US context. The Council felt it is important to draft language that is broad enough to encourage teachers to apply for the designation, but specific enough so it is clear how the U and G differ. The sub-committee in charge of drafting will synthesize the Council’s comments and discussion and present another draft at the next meeting.

IV. **Bryan Harvey is our guest to frame our discussion of two current JTF drafts –**

Summary: Bryan Harvey presented core concepts from the Strategic Plan regarding “What Defines a UMA Undergraduate Education.” The four main themes that have emerged so far: community, agency, responsibility, proficiency. Drawing on data from senior and alumni surveys, the plan proposes that the University can do a better job supporting its students and emphasize the access to learning, as well as creating a better focus of where the opportunities for research are needed. The goal here is to build on the strengths of UMA while addressing those areas that are lacking in an effort to make UMA a “destination of choice” for prospective students.

Bryan then presented some main issues for the Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation (JTFRA) for the Strategic Plan. He explained the current lack of transparency in the way funds are allocated throughout the Campus, and then explained some of the differences that are being proposed for the Strategic Plan. One step they are taking is to simplify the process towards more transparency. There are three legs to allocating funds—1) the tax code, 2) intentional investment, 3) regulations coming from councils and task forces. The main goal is to distribute money in a way that balances out across the campus needs. Bryan acknowledged that the budget might well encourage Deans and departments to maximize enrollments in order to increase budgets, and this point was emphasized as a concern by Council members. Bryan suggested a “regulatory role” for the GEC if it wants to protect low enrolments in targeted GenEd courses. Maurianne suggested that this could well be a future GEC discussion topic. Bryan also asked whether the Chancellor had visited with the GEC yet, and members agreed that such a meeting would be useful early in the Fall 2014 semester, especially given the convergent issues of the role of GenEd in UMA’s being a “designation of choice” and a budget that encourages high undergraduate enrollments.

V. **There were no Standing Reports from Carol Barr, Ernie May, Martha Stassen.**

VI. **IE Reviews**

1. **POLI SCI 394RS – Political Polling and Survey Research**

   **Reviewer 1: Recommended.** This course is clear, timely, and thoughtfully designed; it appears to meet all the IE criteria nicely.

   **Reviewer 2: Recommended.** Course does what it needs to do.
Council decision: approved

2. **POLI SCI 308 – Public Opinion in Politics**

   **Reviewer 1: Recommended.** Well thought-out course. All of the criteria are adequately covered.

   **Reviewer 2: Recommended.** I thought the IE objectives were stated clearly. I thought the course design met those objectives. I would have like to see the activities linked to the objectives.

   Council decision: approved

VII. **General Education--Quinquennial Reviews**

   All Gen Ed reviews were moved to the May meeting due to time.

VIII. **Report on CESD "technical fixes" to the online system and any remaining difficulties for GEC users**