

**General Education Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 22, 2006
Montgomery Hall room 20
3-4:30pm**

Present: Tom Steen, Joan Hawthorne, Ray Lagasse, Pat O'Neil, Keaton Sondreal, Sally Pyle, Bruce Dearden, Helen Melland, Lori Robison, Evguenii Kozliak, Matt Cavalli, Lisa Burger, Martha Potvin, Pamela Kalbfleisch, Kim Kenville, Libby Rankin, Daphne Stevens, Anne Walker

Announcements –

- At the next GE Task Force committee meeting the following reports will be reviewed: First year experience, Quantitative reasoning, and Senior year experience.
- October 20 has been proposed as a decision making meeting to act on the six proposals the group has been working on. It has been suggested that the group meet from 2-7pm including dinner. Tom will route a sheet of paper in which committee members are to indicate whether they are able to attend such a meeting.

Communication proposal –

Daphne reported to the group by beginning with a recap of the original proposal followed by discussion surrounding four questions posed to the Task Force via e-mail.

Question 1: The oral communication requirement.

Supportive comments –

The majority of the group supports an oral communication component to the GE structure. Details of how that would be framed would be determined within future discussions.

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

Aerospace has incorporated Comm 212 (Interpersonal Communication) and Comm 110 (Public Speaking) into their curriculum for all majors. (Kim)

We need to continue to ask ourselves what hope is the goal of communication. (Matt)

Are there other forms of communication outside of written and oral that could be incorporated to fulfill a requirement, i.e., arts. (Bruce)

Question 2: The advanced writing/speaking requirement

Daphne began the discussion by asking if there is a way to incorporate an advanced course within the discipline to fill the oral communication requirement?

Supportive comments –

The flavor of the conversation slatted towards some form of advanced writing/speaking course requirement.

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

A course within the discipline or approved by the discipline at the 300-400 level could be an option. (Bruce)

Would we allow a 200 level course to count if approved by the discipline? (Joan)

If the language incorporated advanced then possibly 200-400 level courses could be used. (Libby)

Question 3: Should we consider allowing different colleges some latitude in defining GE requirements?

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

Colleges could be creative in determining requirements based on the discipline. (Bruce)

There are other institutions that do allow for GE flexibility. (Libby)

We want to be careful not to have too much flexibility. (Helen)

Some of the professional programs at UND are currently structuring the GE curriculum for their students with very limited course choices. (Kim)

Question 4: Two-semester Composition requirement

Supportive Comments –

The majority of the group felt it is important to retain the Comp I and II (or Tech and Business Writing) requirement

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

As a group we need to ask ourselves what is our goal? Is it communication or is it Comp I and Comp II (or Tech. and Business Writing), or do other courses taught on campus qualify to meet the written communication requirement? (Matt)

If Comp I is required, what do we want our students to accomplish in that course? (Bruce)

Don't students need to develop basic skills using the Comp program to build to upper/advanced courses within the discipline? (Daphne)

If writing is only within the discipline students won't learn to write generally. (Anne)

Diversity proposal –

Anne reported that UND doesn't have a firm diversity statement which makes the work of the diversity subcommittee even more challenging. The subcommittee proposes the group to consider that our students be exposed to social and cultural diversity to be able to function in our global society. The proposal suggests students complete a U.S. and a global diversity requirement. Ann pointed out that the courses identified as U.S. or global diversity would focus on diversity – not just tangentially.

Supportive Comments –

The group expressed interest in the in classroom and out of classroom opportunities for students that this proposal addresses – courses along with study abroad and experiential learning opportunities.

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

Current foreign language courses would not count as fulfilling diversity requirement. (Kim)

Those courses, study abroad experiences, and experiential learning opportunities that would fulfill the requirement would need to be approved by the GER committee. (Anne)

Rework the structure of how the proposal is written. One goal with assessable criteria. (Joan)

Reword the statement that students would recognize their own diversity. (Lori)

Information Literacy –

Matt reported that based on the fact that the subcommittee feels that information literacy runs through all aspects of general education. There is not a specific course that a student would take to fill an information literacy requirement, but that information literacy is littered within courses.

Supportive Comments –

What you are proposing is that information literacy would be accomplished within and throughout the GE program? (Pat)

No additional resources are required to implement this recommendation. (Matt)

Items of Discussion and Questions to Consider –

Concerned about the goals portion of the report – exact language has changed/morphed the earlier goals document created by the goals subcommittee. (Libby)

Would this requirement affect the number of GE credits? (Tom)

Revalidation and validation of GE courses would be affected. (Bruce)

Our GE plan needs to be clear and understandable to students. (Pat)

The language of the plan needs to be tightened and restructured. (Martha)

The group felt more discussion was needed. Bruce will make available the Association of College And Research Libraries (ACRL) documents that helped the subcommittee shape their proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Burger