

**Gen Ed Task Force
Meeting Notes
Friday, April 20th, 2007 @ 3pm**

Members Present:

Lisa Burger, Matthew Cavalli, Bruce Dearden, Pamela Kalbfleisch, Anne Kelsch, Ray Lagasse, Steven Light, Helen Melland, Keaton Sondreal, Tom Steen, Daphne Stevens, Anne Walker and Ryan Zerr.

Senate Feedback

- Discussions with faculty and senators have generally been encouraging.
- Task force would like to ask for a straight vote, but that is not a procedural possibility.
- The proposal is the last agenda item. Members will receive the proposal again prior and asked to be prepared.
- In the case the proposal is voted down, the Task force will request very specific feedback.
- Strength of the proposal is the amount of research and the wide variety of people from across campus that have contributed to it.

Feedback from others on campus

- When people have asked questions on the proposal, we have the chance to share what the Task force has discussed and address their concerns.
- A concern from Music is that this proposed change in structure would prevent programs from doubling as GER. Has the Task force has considered the impacts.
 - We need to reassure that the revalidation process will address this and some departments have established that major requirements will automatically satisfy a Gen Ed requirement.
- There are questions about implementation and timelines from the Gen Ed committee.
 - The GERC has the sense that they want the purview of implementation and more involvement.
 - People from this committee will be asked to serve on the implementation process.
 - In a meeting with the GERC, Anne talked about how the proposal has changed with feedback from the Senate meeting and asked about additional concerns.
 - A FAQ suggestion came from this meeting because people outside the taskforce will not have the same sense of what has been accomplished and what the transition process will entail.
 - The proposal doesn't discuss the director position but the director position could be handled differently and outside of the task force.
 - We'll talk about this at the next meeting when we review subcommittee reports.
- Oral communication has been questioned if foreign languages could meet that requirement. It could depending on how the course is developed. This is an issue that can be addressed in the revalidation process and could attempt to meet the language, diversity or oral communication requirements.
 - This could produce good outcomes if the goals are reviewed of courses.
- Do physics courses have to meet the depth? Can we just teach the physics? Yes, but it wouldn't be Gen Ed course.
 - Questions like these may be good to add to the FAQ sheet.
- Concern on the name (Essential Studies) in that it makes everything else seem nonessential.

Other Language details

- Changing "Essential Studies."
- Avoid negative phrasing.
- Include the importance for students in taking these courses and why they are important.
 - Example - "Why will I take courses under four different categories?"
- Spruce up the front page and add title.

- Add the supporting documents.
- The report needs to be distributed in many ways across campus.

Online University Newsletter

- Redirect the links and repost in the online newsletter.
- Link to a page that would include the proposal, the minutes, and the FAQ page.
 - The minutes being available are important to some outside the task force to review in addition to the proposal itself.
 - Need to recheck the attendance for errors. Please report to Anne if you have been omitted.

Student Involvement

- Concern of how to involve students in the Senate meeting and the Senate meeting is the Thursday before Reading and Review day.
 - Recommendation to provide pizza for students and task force members to meet ½ hour prior to the Senate meeting to discuss proposal before the Senate.
 - There is not a great overlap between members of the Student Senate and the University Senate and so discussions can reach a greater number of people.
- The Gen Ed proposal is also on the agenda for Sunday and task force members' support would be appreciated.
- The Dakota Student will be interviewing Keaton and Jay for student input and are planning on publishing in the May 1 issue.

OID Newsletter

- This is scheduled to be completed on Monday and will come out next week.
- Because of limited space, the article focuses on the new goals and to educate about these issues.
 - Would have liked to see more of the proposal in the newsletter, but maybe this can be addressed in the FAQ.

Civic Engagement

- The biggest concern advocates of the civic engagement have been that the task force considered the issue.
 - Tom has met with Lana Rakow to discuss this and learned that she had not received feedback from the task force on how the civic engagement proposal she presented in December was voted on.
- Secondly, our documents discuss students' personal and professional life, and that GE will inform both. Students interact with the community. Her point is that there is at least one other element of student life that we are missing and that civic engagement would bridge both.
 - A possibility of including language in the 1st paragraph for students about civic mindedness or into the purpose statement.
 - It would be better in the purpose than in the 3rd paragraph.
 - If we were to insert civic engagement, then wouldn't other issues have to be inserted as well?
 - Could it be included in the essential studies section or with experiential learning courses?
 - Has civic engagement been imbedded appropriately throughout the proposal? Seems consistent.
 - Question on if ethics has been over imbedded.

Have we included other feedback in the proposal?

- There is a question of the ethics goal between incorporating it into the information literary goal and that the way it is reiterated in the 1st and the 3rd bullet is not fitting. What are thoughts on this?
 - It should be kept there as its part of the definition but highlight is through the proposal more.
 - Would changing the language in the proposal to add ethics lessen its meaning?
 - At the same time, this entire document is compromise and if something is not including to one's liking, there will be future opportunities to address this again.
 - Ethics has not been incorporated parallel to the civic engagement. Need to embed them equally.
- Have we listened to feedback well? Not taking all feedback and concerns into considerations may leave us vulnerable. At the same time, there needs to be a cut off point for feedback to be able to finalize the proposal.
- Changes will be highlighted in a memo.

Other Issues

- Was there more language regarding the communication goal?
 - Yes, and can add that.
- What is the standing of the ad hoc report on experimental learning? Our understanding is that if approved it would be added to the strategic plan.

Adjourned at 4:10!

Next Meeting on Friday, May 4th – Reading and Review Day