

## General Education Committee

Executive Board Room  
October 28, 2010  
9:00 am

Present: Bob Drov Dahl, Bruce Congdon, Mike Hamilton, Elaine Scott, Steve Layman, Doug Downing, Andrew Ryder, Cindy Price, Kathleen Braden, Katie Kresser, Mike Hamilton

### Agenda

1. Do we support the recommendations made by last year's GESC?
2. Should we consider structural changes to the Common Curriculum?
3. Should we ask faculty to vote on whether the General Education should be reduced by five credits? (should it come from the EC or CC?)

Opening prayer

Approval of 10-14-10 minutes

Discussion of report to UPEC

- By early winter.... progress report?
- When will small groups with department chairs take place?
- Create a brief outline to take around to department chairs, etc, by the end of the quarter
- Determine what we will deliver to UPEC on our last meeting

Establish EC criteria with distinctive context and character outside of meeting times (over email, etc).

- What standards does a course meet to be included?

### Key elements to the recommendations from 2009's Committee:

1. Affirmation of the developmental structure of the CC around the three key questions: Who am I? What is my story (How did I get here?) and how do I know?
2. Locating the UPEC- approved skills for the GE curriculum into the Common Curriculum (rather than locating it in the EC)
3. Making the "interdisciplinary" nature of the CC a function of interdisciplinary approaches to a common course, rather than interdisciplinary content within a course.
4. Changing the USEM advising strategy to reduce advising loads for faculty who teach USEM courses every year

## CC Issues

Discussion of the Committee taking on the CC in addition to the EC

- UPEC's assessment two years ago did not point to a major overhaul of the CC, so the 2009 Committee made minor recommendations based on that assessment
- Faculty thinks CC needs more than just tweaking?

Locate the skills UPEC approved in 2006 for GE and place those in CC.

- Is this something we want to keep in any recommendation we would like to make?
- We need skills associated with courses
  - How much can be accomplished and what is realistic? (ie, oral communication is a challenge)
- Revising original goals for CC and asking if they're realistic?
- CC was not approached with assessment in mind

Options to get "unstuck"

- Saying we still agree with assessment from two years ago?
- We agree with our tweaking last year's committee's work?
- Ask UPEC to look at the CC?
- How does the majority of faculty feel about the CC?

## Discussion of CC and EC

Understand how they work and fit together

- Desired outcomes as a whole in GE
- Where are these being met in CC and EC?
- EC has never had goals and need specific measureable outcomes
- Review of CC goals could be part of the Committee's objective

CC based on disciplines?

- What would make it common/developmental?
- What differentiates it from an EC?
- Thematic (ex, UCOR 2000 – emphasizing international exposure element)
- Focus on big, internal questions (morality, faith, etc – but looking at other cultures)
  - Get back to goals statements – clear goals

## Discussion of UCOR 1000

- Is the weakness a curriculum or teaching issue?
- More than half is taught by adjuncts
- More of an interdisciplinary focus
- Could be taught from differ disciplinary perspectives, however people will teach their strengths
- Relevance to UCOR 2000, 3000?
- Create class that allows the questions to be connected
  - Who am I, where do I come from, what do I believe?

Has to be qualitatively different

- Evolution happening in classes
- Lacking systemic way of allowing these courses to evolve
- Our students have changed over time

Move that we recommend that UPEC and new director of GE reexamine the CC and we suggest important questions to consider...?

- Committee formally ask that CC is reviewed
- Provide questions we think they should ask
- Would this allow us to do work with EC?

*Make assumptions about what CC goals have evolved to be and build that into proposal – not restructure?*

- Committee to conduct a study?
- Articulate and provide more clarity

#### **What we know....**

- We like the concept of a CC (distinct from EC)
- We like a required course for freshman, sophomores, and juniors
- Are topics current? Have they evolved efficiently over the past ten years to our current students?
  - Dev or thematic questions that today's student relates to

#### **Focus Our Conversation**

A “map” for each UCOR (1000, 2000, 3000): UCOR representatives on the Committee will take this on

- Goal before the next meeting: to map the goals of our own courses
- How it is vertically integrated?

Adjourned.