

GERTF Minutes

8/25/2006

Ricks 308

Present: John Ambrose, Allen Dupont, Carrie Zelna, Jacqui Hawkins-Morton, Jose Picart, Jo-Ann Cohen, Sarah Ash, March Krotee, Mike Carter, Andrew Barnes, Joni Spurlin, Jerome Lavelle, Laura Severin, Catherine Freeman, Ken Esbenshade

The Task Force members moved to approve the minutes from Aug. 22, 2006. Motion was approved.

1) Jose Picart moved to approve: "Motion to make one co-requisite in GER U.S. Cultural Diversity.

Jo-Ann Cohen seconded

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Task Force members discussed methods and possibilities to expose students to social and cultural issues. Many members agree there is a strong agreement across peer institutions for exposure to American stratification as well providing an international perspective. Creating a co-requisite requirement would help provide that opportunity in a General Education Program. The First Year Experience (Freshman course) could also incorporate these topics into the curriculum and link it into the General Education Program (GEP). An implementation group could look at and select courses that could provided this co-requisite. The Task Force asked Jose to bring a list of objectives for the diversity co-requisite.

2) Jerome Lavelle moved to approve: "Leave development of the First Year Experience/Course to an implementation committee. Pilot trial the FYE course to campus in Fall 2007 with the plan to roll out to campus in Fall 2008."

Joni Spurlin seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion: The TF discussed an appropriate timeline for how to pilot and eventually implement the freshman experience and new GEP program. Most members agreed it would be best to look at piloting in Fall 2007 and work towards roll-out in Fall 2008. This provides time to develop and pilot the freshman experience and receive feedback from the campus and community.

3) Laura Severin moved to approve: " There be a committee to develop thematic tracks and charged with defining themes, developing available themes, working with experts in areas to develop course lists, and work with faculty teaching courses on the list to introduce thematic objectives. The committee will also discuss an approval process and develop a structure for continuing oversight."

Jo-Ann Cohen seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion: From the previous discussion on timeline and piloting of the freshman course, the TF moved on to discuss implementation, oversight, and responsibilities as the group moves forward. The members further discussed the composition and review of possible courses for theme lists and what process that might go through. TF agreed the wording of the capstone objectives should be revised to use appropriate phrases like “integration, synthesis and focus” versus the “introduction, survey” language applied in the first year experience objectives. Dupont, Carter, Lavelle, and Spurlin will work together to come up with more defined objectives for the capstone.

4) Joni Spurlin moved to approve: “ That the GER “Towards a balanced life” thematic track will be implemented in Fall 2008 and a distribution list be approved by CUE (Council on Undergraduate Education).”

Jo-Ann Cohen seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion: The TF members discussed implementation considering a committee to develop the FYE/Freshman experience and thematic committee. Coordination and discussion between Council on Undergraduate Education Committee, University Courses and Curricula Committee, College Curricula Committees, Associate Deans, etc. will play a key part in developing processes crucial to the proposed General Education Program.

5) Jacqui Hawkins-Morton moved to approve: “Transfer students who come in with a 2-year degree will have satisfied the General Education Requirements based on the Articulation Agreement and those who do not will need to fulfill our GER with the exception of the First Year Experience Course.”

Jo-Ann Cohen seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion: The TF discussed how to handle transfer students to the University, what has been done in the past, what has worked and what could work for the new GEP.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa McConnell.